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Government gets an F in 'Post' e-mail test

By JUDY SIEGEL

At least for now, e-mail queries to senior government officials are more likely to end up in a virtual garbage pail than to be answered.

This is the conclusion of an effort by *The Jerusalem Post* to contact dozens of officials – from cabinet ministers to spokesmen – via e-mail.

The cabinet decided last June that by November 1998, all ministries and more than a dozen affiliated public authorities (such as income tax, customs, the Export Institute, and the Civil Service Commission) would have to establish electronic mailboxes to receive queries and comments from the public.

Almost two weeks ago, on February 15, a full-page advertisement appeared in a Hebrew daily. It listed some 180 e-mail addresses for ministers, directors-general, deputy directors-general, spokesmen, public-queries officers, and other officials at 21 ministries and 10 other public agencies.

Early last week, *Post* reporters – using pseudonyms and neutral e-mail addresses that didn't give away their profession – sent queries to 41 key people. Only eight, nearly all from "technological" ministries that use e-mail as part of their regular work, responded.

They were: Meteorological Services director Zvi Alperson (who replied in person); HILA (the office in the Prime Minister's Office coordinating computerization and computer communications in government ministries) director Emanuel Warhaftig; the Communications Ministry webmaster; a clerk on behalf of outgoing Health Ministry director-general Gabi Barabash (who said the query was referred to another official); a representative of both Science Minister Silvan Shalom and his director-general, Mordechai Bishari; Labor and Social Affairs Ministry spokesman Nahum Ido; and a public-queries officer in the Defense Ministry.

Among the senior people who did not respond were Health Minister Yehoshua Matza; Environment Minister Rafael Eitan; Defense Minister Moshe Arens; Interior Minister Eli Suissa; Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai; Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon; Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush; and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani. In most ministries contacted, no one responded at all.

Warhaftig was surprised and disappointed.

"We have only three full-time staffers, and we can't force the government ministries to implement the cabinet decision. We don't want to become a 'Big Brother.' We've held one-day basic e-mail courses for some 150 staffers chosen by the ministries and authorities," he said.

He added that HILA chairman Michael Eitan "regularly sends e-mail to officials, and he gets responses," but he conceded that the response rate would obviously be higher in such a case than if dispatched by an ordinary citizen.

Warhaftig didn't know whether staffers charged with reading and responding to e-mail messages want this extra work or are being paid overtime for it.

See E-MAIL, Page 6

Labor closes deal with Levy, Meimad

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor Party hopes to sign agreements with Gesher's David Levy and Meimad early next week, after reportedly reaching agreement yesterday in negotiations with both.

No further contacts, however, took place with Bat Yam contractor Shlomi Lahiani, who left yesterday morning for a short vacation in the North. He will not be available for talks until next week.

All three sets of negotiations involve plans to reserve slots for non-Labor candidates in a new electoral bloc, One Israel, in which Labor will be the major component. This would mean that the outsiders would push Labor candidates further down the list, to places considerably lower than those they won in the recent primaries.

PM reveals Likud team, Page 3

Party chairman Ehud Barak met yesterday with Levy, and, though nothing was firmly concluded, both sides report that the session ended in good spirits. A high-ranking Gesher source said that Levy seems about to get most of what he is asking for. He will be placed in One Israel's third slot, immediately after Barak and MK Shimon Peres.

Gesher MKs Yehuda Lankri and Maxim Levy will both be placed between the 20th and 30th slots. Nothing specific was said about the notion the Lankri would resign his Knesset seat as soon as he is elected and would then be appointed ambassador to France. Labor sources revealed on Wednesday that this is the plan. It, of course, will become possible only if Labor wins the election.

Maxim Levy expressed confidence the deal will be signed next week.

The Meimad executive is to convene on Monday to approve its deal with Labor. Barak is expected to attend.

The dovish religious movement is said to have received slots 17, 30, and 33 on the One Israel slate. In addition, it will get an undertaking that if Barak wins, it will get a key cabinet portfolio, but its minister will not be an MK. The aim here, as in Lankri's case, is to get one of the new Meimad MKs to resign in order to take up the ministerial appointment. Meimad is reported to be after the Education portfolio.

See LABOR, Page 6



Samuel Sheinbein, suspected of a murder in Maryland, sits under guard in the Supreme Court after the court yesterday rejected a US request to extradite him. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Court: Murder suspect can't be extradited

By DAN IZENBERG

In an attempt at damage control, the State Attorney's office yesterday rushed to announce that it had already prepared an indictment against suspected killer Samuel Sheinbein, after the Supreme Court overruled a lower court decision to extradite him to the United States.

The indictment against Sheinbein will be presented at the beginning of next week to the Tel Aviv District Court, which extended his remand in custody for five days. It was prepared by Tel Aviv district prosecutor Hadassah Na'or.

Irit Cohen, head of the Justice Ministry's International Department, said Sheinbein "is not getting up and running away. He is being tried for murder."

Three of the five justices, Theodore Or, Eliahu Matza and Meir Ilan, voted to overrule the Jerusalem District Court's decision to extradite Sheinbein. Supreme Court President Aharon Barak and Ya'acov Kedmi backed the lower court ruling.

Sheinbein smiled slightly as Barak read out a brief precis of the 47-page decision.

The eighteen-year-old Maryland resident is wanted by US authorities in connection with the murder of Alfredo Tello Jr., whose burned and mutilated body was found on September 21, 1997 in a garage in Montgomery Country, Maryland.

Sheinbein, whose father was born in pre-state Palestine but has lived most of life in the US, fled to Israel after the murder and claimed he could not be extradited because he was an Israeli citizen.

The US has insisted on his return to face trial on the basis of an extradition agreement between the two countries. The agreement does not protect citizens of either country from being extradited to the other.

However, a 1977 amendment to the Israeli Extradition Law approved after the agreement with Washington was signed prevents the extradition of Israeli citizens to other countries, including the US.

Sheinbein, represented by former justice minister David Liba'i, appealed to the Supreme Court after the Jerusalem District Court ruled that he could be extradited.

The district court maintained that although there was no question that Sheinbein was an Israeli citizen, he could be extradited because he was not "closely associated" with the country.

In his appeal, Liba'i argued that neither the Citizenship Law, which stipulates who qualifies for Israeli citizenship, nor the Extradition Law, which protects Israeli citizens from extradition, specifies that a citizen must be "closely associated" with the country.

Anyone who fulfilled the criteria of the Citizenship Law could not be extradited, and, being the son of an Israeli citizen, Sheinbein fulfilled them, he said.

Barak maintained that the internationally accepted reasons whereby some countries did not extradite their own citizens was because they considered it unfair that their citizens be put on trial in a foreign country whose laws they did not know, that the state ought to protect its citizens from being tried in an unfamiliar system and that the foreign state could not be trusted to give fair trial.

None of these criteria applied to Sheinbein, an American citizen who lived all his life in the US, wrote Barak.

He added that the extradition process was part of the effort to fight crime through international cooperation. The aim was so important that the laws and treaties governing it should be interpreted liberally.

Barak also said it would be difficult and costly to prosecute Sheinbein in Israel because witnesses would have to be brought from the US to give verbal testimony and be available for cross-examination.

Or disagreed with Barak. He said there was no justification for the court to provide its own interpretation of the definition of "citizen" in the Extradition Law because the legislators had been explicit about what they had wanted to achieve when they passed the amendment.

Menachem Begin introduced the legislation as a private member's bill in 1975 and later, as prime minister, turned it into a government initiative.

See COURT, Page 6

US officials upset at Sheinbein ruling

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON – Attorney General Janet Reno is "disappointed" with the Supreme Court's decision not to extradite an American Jewish teenager, Samuel Sheinbein, to stand trial for the September 1997 murder of an acquaintance, Alfredo Tello Jr., she said yesterday

Sheinbein, 18, fled to Israel from the US in September 1997 to avoid murder charges after the dismembered and burned body of Tello, 19, was found in a garage of a vacant house in Washington's Maryland suburbs.

Montgomery County, Maryland, prosecutor Douglas F. Gansler disputed Sheinbein's successful claim that he is an Israeli citizen and should therefore be tried in Israel, telling a press conference yesterday that the case "should be adjudicated here and he should be held accountable here."

Maryland has the death penalty, but if extradited, Sheinbein would face a maximum life sentence because he was a minor at the time of the crime, according to Gansler's office.

But both Gansler and Reno said they are prepared to fully cooperate with Israeli authorities in prosecuting the case.

"We are looking at whatever we can do in terms of further steps to be taken in the review process. And of course, we're disappointed with the response, but at the same time we're going to be dedicated to doing everything we can to work with the local prosecutor and with Israeli authorities, if the case is tried there, to see that justice is done," Reno told reporters at her weekly briefing.

"We much prefer that the case be tried where the crime was committed. Again, a community should be able to speak out against such injustice and such conduct. But if it has to be tried in another country, we want to make sure that the processes are in place that will permit it to happen, so that we see justice done regardless," she said.

Tello's mother, Eliette Ramos, told reporters that she is "very upset and disappointed" with the Israeli government and judiciary, and believes that the suspect is now "laughing" at having effectively "manipulated both countries."

She also called on Americans to contact their congressional representatives to foment pressure for Sheinbein's extradition, and questioned how American aid can continue flowing to Jerusalem under the circumstances.



Victim's mother Eliette Ramos (AP)

State Attorney Edna Arbel, in Washington for a conference on corruption, telephoned Gansler to explain the decision, an Israeli Embassy official said. Public affairs officer Avi Granot was also considering telephoning Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening.

Granot also called consuls-general throughout the US to brace them for questions and assure that they are familiar with the facts of the case, the official stated.

See US, Page 6

Rubinstein supports delaying Arutz 7 law

By DAN IZENBERG

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein told the High Court of Justice yesterday that he does not oppose demands it issue an injunction barring implementation of the law legalizing Arutz 7 and other pirate radio stations until it rules on three petitions against the law.

Rubinstein's opinion came in the form of a reply to the petitions, submitted by MKs Haim Oron (Meretz) and Eitan Cabel (Labor) and Radio North Holdings Inc., calling on the court to nullify the law. The Justice Ministry emphasized that Rubinstein's response was given in the name of the government and the Knesset.

The Knesset approved the law on Tuesday in the form of a reservation submitted by Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) to an amendment to the Telecommunications Law. The amendment was included in the Arrangements Law for the 1999 budget.

Before the vote, Rubinstein strongly opposed the substance of Handel's reservation and its inclusion in legislation meant to deal only with budgetary matters.

Rubinstein wrote that the petitions ought to be heard because they raise important questions, some of which have never been considered before. These include "the scope of the term 'human dignity' in the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom and whether it includes other elements – not specified by name in the law – which deal with the right to equality in a more general context.

"The same applies to the question of whether the new amendment contradicts the fundamental values of Israeli law. Another question revolves around the degree to which the court may criticize legislative procedures set down in the Knesset House Rules and decisions made by the Knesset House Committee in accordance with these procedures."

Rubinstein added that these and other issues raised by the petitioners "require a thorough and deep examination."

To soften his confrontation with the Knesset over the legality of the Arutz 7 law, Rubinstein urged the court not to issue an injunction against the law itself.

Instead, he recommended that the court issue an injunction against the government, the Communications Ministry, and the Second Television and Radio Authority, barring them from implementing the law until it rules on the petition.

Rubinstein added that the Knesset should not be required to reply to the petitioners with regard to the law itself, because according to a court ruling, once the Knesset passes a law, it ceases to bear responsibility for it.

However, the Knesset should respond to those parts of the petition challenging the parliamentary procedures involved in its passage.

US-Israeli wanted for Texas murder

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Texas prosecutors are trying to track down an Israeli-American who was indicted last week for a murder in Houston in which, officials said, "he killed for the experience of doing it."

Dror Haim Goldberg, 20, was indicted February 17 for the November 27 stabbing murder of wig-shop clerk Manuela Silverio, 54, Harris County prosecutor Chuck Rosenthal said yesterday.

Goldberg holds an Israeli passport, but was born and raised in Houston, and never lived in Israel, Rosenthal told *The Jerusalem Post*.

See WANTED, Page 6

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Eilat	5:15 p.m.	6:13 p.m.

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NEWS
in brief

US defense secretary due next week

US Secretary of Defense William Cohen is to make a one-day visit here next Thursday to get acquainted with Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Arens is to give Cohen his views on the peace process and the strategic relationship between Israel and the US, defense officials said. Cohen will also pay a visit to Jordan on his way to the Persian Gulf states. En route home, he will visit Egypt.

Cohen's visit comes following a meeting in Washington between Israeli and American defense officials over improving Israel's defense against ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. The two will likely discuss the agreement to upgrade strategic and military cooperation as called for in the recently signed strategic memorandum. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Yad Vashem honors British diplomat

Frank Foley, a British diplomat who defied the Nazis and saved thousands of Jews from death, was awarded the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem yesterday, following a request by prominent British Jewish leader Greville Janner. Foley, a former MI6 agent, was the head of the passport and visa section at the British embassy in Berlin in the 1930s, when Hitler rose to power in Germany. Disregarding British government regulations, he issued visas to thousands of Jews, allowing them to escape from Germany before Hitler's forces could send them to death camps. *AP*

Pro-Hitler graffiti found on Netanya cinema

Police discovered neo-Nazi graffiti on the walls of a cinema on the Netanya coast while investigating a fire that damaged it last week, the municipality said yesterday. The graffiti included the Hebrew phrases "The Jews will die," and "The end of the Jews is coming." Police have not said if they have any leads.

Netanya Mayor Miriam Fireberg said the graffiti was a "grave act," even if it turns out to be a prank. *AP*

Infant run over and killed

A two-year-old was run over and killed in Lod yesterday. The infant apparently crossed Katzenelson Street unattended and was hit by a car. He was taken in critical condition to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin, where he died of his injuries. Police took the driver of the car into custody for questioning. *Itim*

Sharon, wife due back in Israel

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and his wife Lily will return to Israel at the end of the week from the United States, where she has undergone a series of medical tests over the past 10 days. Sharon is scheduled to accompany Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on his visit to Jordan Sunday. *Itim*

PM takes working vacation in Eilat

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his family arrived in Eilat last night for a weekend vacation that coincides with the city's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Today Netanyahu will attend a large-scale gathering to welcome Shabbat in the city's Jubilee Park. Tomorrow evening, Netanyahu will meet soldiers and local residents at the Meyerhoff Arts Center. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Boat sunk to honor naval commandos

In an unusual and poignant memorial to the naval commandos slain in Lebanon 18 months ago, the body of an old boat was deliberately sunk off the Nahariya shore yesterday in the hope that it will provide a scenic diving site. *Liat Collins*

IDF confirms killing of 4 gunmen

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Golani troops who had been on the trail of Shi'ite guerrillas killed three of them in an operation that lasted nearly 24 hours, the IDF confirmed yesterday.

A fourth guerrilla was killed by an IAF helicopter gunship as he was seen fleeing a village where road-side bombs were found, the army said. There were no Israeli casualties.

The incidents took place Wednesday, the day after three paratrooper officers were killed and five soldiers wounded in a clash with Hizbullah gunmen. But it wasn't until yesterday morning that the IDF was able to give full details of the clash between the Golani troops and the guerrillas.

But even as that incident ended, the attrition in south Lebanon continued. Hizbullah gunners fiercely attacked SLA outposts with mortars, wounding a militiaman in a position near the village of Markaba, IDF and Lebanese security sources said.

Wednesday's clash began when a Golani unit moving in the Saluki gorge near the village of Kantara detected two gunmen just before noon.

"The [Golani] force fired at the terrorists and hit both of them killing them on the spot," said Lt.-Col. Ilan, the Golani battalion commander.

"About a hour-and-a-half later another terrorist appeared and the force again operated coolly and with determination hit the third terrorist. The force got out of the area and are all OK."

The force continued to sweep the area in search of more terrorists and only returned early yesterday morning.

The three gunmen were carrying weapons, radios and various ordnance. They were carrying bombs in rucksacks, military sources said.

"From the way they looked I presume they were certainly planning an attack and the [Golani] force foiled it and did it in the best way possible," Lt.-Col. Ilan told reporters.

IDF patrols often spend days in the hills in their hunt for Hizbullah and Amal gunmen and it was only when the troops returned yesterday to their base that they found out about the fatal clash on Tuesday.



Three Amal gunmen, with their flag and a Katyusha rocket in the background, adjust their weapons yesterday outside the southern Lebanese village of Kabrigha. (AP)

The Golani soldiers involved in the operation were from the same platoon in which Sgt. Ohad Zach was killed in December during a night patrol. Zach was killed when platoon members opened fire on each other by mistake.

Lt.-Col. Ilan said the platoon had been sent back into action after the "friendly fire" incident, with a more experienced platoon commander. He said this was the third or fourth time the platoon had been sent out since the December fatality.

"It is one of our ways we see to reinsert the platoon into events so it can continue with its operations," he said.

The army did not know to which organization the three gunmen belonged. Some sources in the Northern Command believed they were from Hizbullah's rival Amal group. Amal was responsible for just 10 percent of all attacks in south Lebanon last year.

International security sources in Lebanon, however, said it was not likely the gunmen were from Amal, since it didn't fit their pattern of operation and or their capabilities.

Hizbullah initially denied it had suffered any losses in Lebanon, but later admitted that one of its fighters had been killed.

That may have been a fourth guerrilla killed on Wednesday by gunfire from an Israeli helicopter.

While the Golani troops were chasing down the Shi'ite squad, IDF and SLA forces were in pursuit of a man believed to be a Hizbullah gunman seen fleeing the village of Markaba. The SLA patrol had just detected a large number of roadside bombs when the man was seen fleeing from an abandoned house. An IAF attack helicopter was called in and shot the man.

Hizbullah said that its forces attacked a joint IDF-SLA patrol near Markaba on Wednesday and inflicted casualties. It said that it also attacked the SLA outpost with mortars and rocket propelled grenades "scoring direct hits."

Radio Beirut said a large IDF and SLA force went into Markaba during the night and carried out searches. "These are bad times for south Lebanon. The number of incidents is really increasing," said one security official from south Lebanon, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz yesterday paid condolence calls on the families of the three officers who fell Tuesday. Mofaz also took part in the debriefing of the Golani soldiers.

Meanwhile, SLA Commander Gen. Antoine Lahad released five prisoners from the Al-Khayam prison, UN sources said. They were released on humanitarian grounds and are required to remain in their villages in the security zone.

In other news, Lebanon has delayed its complaint to the UN Security Council over what it sees as the expansion of the security zone, after the IDF fenced off the village of Arnoun.

According to Lebanon's National News Agency, US Ambassador to Lebanon David Satterfield has headed to Washington to "pursue his efforts regarding the issue of Arnoun."

Lebanon hopes the US, which is one of the five members of the Grapes of Wrath cease-fire monitoring group, can pressure Israel to pull back from Arnoun.

The monitoring group has already rejected Lebanon's demands for Israel to take down the fence it erected around the mostly abandoned village. Israel has said that it has not expanded the security zone and that Arnoun has always been part of it.

Mahameed blasted for joining Bishara in pro-Hizbullah comments

By NINA GILBERT and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

MK Hashem Mahameed, who is seeking to join a United Arab List, said yesterday that Hizbullah is a first-class "national liberation movement" and the security zone is a "graveyard for its occupiers."

"Hizbullah is a national liberation movement of the utmost importance," Mahameed declared.

"South Lebanon is a graveyard for anyone who enters it as an enemy."

Mahameed, who was speaking at an Arab students union forum at the University of Haifa, is a Hadash MK in the Knesset but has established his own party, the National Unity Party.

He is negotiating with the Democratic Arab Party over joining its list with the Islamic Movement.

The DAP is also negotiating with Balad, headed by Azmi Bishara.



MK Hashem Mahameed (Eliahu Hanati)

Last week, Bishara said Hizbullah is a "brave national movement that has taught Israel a lesson."

As a result, Deputy Minister Michael Eitan called for Balad to be disqualified from running in the Knesset.

MK Michael Kleiner said Bishara should be removed from the Knesset.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens reacted to Mahameed's comments praising Hizbullah, saying he was mistaken.

"The ones who invaded Lebanon and who are in control of Lebanon and the ones who give Hizbullah a permit to operate in Lebanon are the Syrians," he said.

"I think Hashem Mahameed knows this. I am his friend and we know each other well and I have to talk to him about this, Arens told reporters during a visit with the IDF forces near the Gaza Strip border.

"It could be that he doesn't know everything he has to know about who controls Lebanon and who stands behind the actions of Hizbullah."

'Post' columnist Sraya Shapiro dies

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Sraya Shapiro, a long-time *Jerusalem Post* reporter who continued to contribute a weekly column "Past Tense" to the *Jerusalem Post Magazine*, died yesterday at 89.

Shapiro was born in Russia in 1910 to a Zionist family, and learned Hebrew there. He immigrated here in 1925, and studied at the Herzliya Gymnasium. He studied architecture at the Sorbonne.

He joined the *Post* in 1947, after having previously worked for *Haboker*, the General Zionist paper.

He covered various beats for the *Post*, including politics, military affairs, and theater.

He also ran the Tel Aviv office for several years, working in that capacity past retirement age.

In his column, he used his vast knowledge of Israeli history and politics to critique books and articles written on these subjects, and he would often offer his own insights into the events described.

Sarah Honig, the *Post*'s political commentator, recalls that Shapiro sent her to cover her first political meetings, and they developed a close relationship.

"He was the kind of person you don't see in our milieu anymore; from the age when journalism had people imbued with culture. He was such a rounded personality, he knew everything about everything," she recalled.

He and his wife Yocheved, who died several years ago, were "fixtures of the cultural life of Old Tel Aviv," Honig added.

He was also an accomplished amateur photographer, she said. "He would wander through the streets with his camera, taking shots of people's faces. The corridors of his home were full of amazing photographs."

He will be buried on Sunday at 1 p.m. at Hayarkon Cemetery. He is survived by two daughters and two grandchildren.

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In yesterday's Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 601484 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 193349 won the car. Tickets 387876, 391361, 024138, 180785, 372798, 794824, 740484 and 080043 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 08385, 59438, 12933, 32600, 97068, 87859, 37245, 48481, 25960, 23111, 29723, 17106, 55366, 15517, 39246, 47429, 06099, 97728 and 89688 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 086, 103, 841, 813, 748 and 662 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 47, 72, 75 and 87 won 30 NIS. Tickets ending in 04 and 65 won 20 NIS. Tickets ending in 2 and 7 won NIS 10.

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هكذا من الأعلى

PM reveals Likud campaign team

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday officially announced the names of those who will be responsible for the Likud election campaign. Most of Likud's ministers and MKs have a campaign function.

Netanyahu's main slogan remains: "A strong leader for a strong country."

The campaign headquarters will be led by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav with Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi as his deputy. Communications Minister Limor Livnat will again be in charge of the publicity campaign; MK Ruby Rivlin will be in charge of organization, former cabinet secretary Dani Naveh will head Netanyahu's personal campaign headquarters and will draw up the party platform together with MK Uzi Landau and Yuval Steinitz, a newcomer to the Likud.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will be in charge of finances; Deputy Minister Michael Eitan will be in charge of election day procedures, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens will be in charge of the campaign in the Arab sector, as he was in 1992, and will be helped by MK Gideon Ezra and Ayoub Kara.

MK Naomi Blumenthal will be in charge of women and new immigrants; former MK Ovadia Eli for the religious public; and Minister without Portfolio Shaul Amor will be in charge of development towns and neighborhoods. Other MKs and candidates will be in charge of different regions and there will be a steering committee made up of ministers and the heads of party bodies.

Science Minister Silvan Shalom was noticeably absent from both the gathering and the list.

Katsav rejected reports that there had been a large number defections of Likud members to other parties. Supporters of Shalom however have reportedly threatened to close some Likud branches in protest. MK Yisrael Katz is continuing his protest against Katsav's appointment as head of the campaign headquarters and he is apparently backed by some moshavim.

Meanwhile, the internal Likud tribunal discussing the appeal of several Likud candidates who feel they have been placed unfairly low on the list because of the system used is expected to announce its decision today. The candidates, four former MKs, have threatened to take the matter to the district court if the tribunal does not rule in their favor.



Microphone in hand, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reads from a chart listing members of the Likud election team at party headquarters in Tel Aviv yesterday, flanked by (from left) Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

ELECTIONS

notebook

Mordechai, Weizman pay joint condolence visit

President Ezer Weizman was joined by Center Party leader and former defense minister Yitzhak Mordechai in paying a condolence visit yesterday to the family of Maj. Eitan Balahsan, who was killed in south Lebanon early Tuesday morning in a Hizbullah attack.

The joint visit followed media speculation that Weizman was backing Mordechai's candidacy.

Asked why he had joined Weizman, Mordechai said: "I just had a chance to hitch a ride with the president."

An angry Weizman said: "Don't bother me with this, okay. It has no significance."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who also paid a condolence visit to the family yesterday, did not comment directly on the joint Weizman-Mordechai visit, but said, "The Israeli people has three options: either voting for the Leftist way; or not voting for any [particular] way; or voting for us. Since the people is seeking a way, the choice will ultimately be between the Left or our way, the Likud way."

Liat Collins

Deri says Shas will not back Barak

Shas leader Aryeh Deri yesterday refused to say who his party would support for prime minister but was prepared to say that it would not be Labor Party leader Ehud Barak. Barak earned the ire of Shas for, among other things, his bill which would have abolished military draft exemptions for most yeshiva students. Deri said there is "plenty of time to decide" and said the decision, and the decision on the Shas Knesset list, will be made by the Council of Torah Sages.

He also called for a broad government coalition.

Deri was addressing a gathering of Shas activists in Jerusalem. At the meeting, Shas revealed the main part of its campaign strategy: allowing the public to participate in the writing of a Torah scroll. Anyone who wants can pay NIS 1 per letter. The price is to prevent accusations of it being a free gift and the Torah scroll does not fall in the category of providing amulets and charms, which is banned as a means of getting votes.

Deri ridiculed Meretz for distributing "hamsas" with the Prayer for the Home to residents of Jerusalem's Katamonim neighborhood. He said an "hamsa" is definitely a charm, a charge denied by Meretz MK Ran Cohen.

Liat Collins

NRP moderates: No chance of changing list

By NINA GILBERT

The National Religious Party central committee will not agree to make changes to the party's list elected earlier this week, leaders of the NRP's moderate camp warned yesterday.

"There is no chance that the committee will agree to this. It is not reasonable," said Eliezer Sheffer, one of the leaders of the Central Forum in the NRP.

He was responding to the suggestion made by newly elected candidate Nahum Langenthal to relinquish his No. 5 position and move down a slot to make room for MK Hanan Porat, a settlement icon who was pushed down to No. 11, causing an uproar among his supporters.

The proposal was made at a meeting of the top six candidates in Tel Aviv Wednesday, called by party leader and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, to find a way to prevent losing support among Porat loyalists. Porat, however, rejected the idea.

Sheffer and Rabbi Yehiel Wasserman, another leader of the forum, announced yesterday that "candidates from the settlements are well represented on the list elected by the central committee which expressed their desire for a balanced and responsible list reflecting the desire of the NRP to return to the center of the Israeli political map."

They also called on the party not to endorse any candidate for premier, although Levy wants to endorse Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom is also inclined to do so.

"Levy is in a panic and is being blamed by Porat supporters for not working harder to ensure that he would be elected to a high spot, Sheffer noted. "He is now trying to fix the situation to appease the militant camp."

Meanwhile, the NRP leadership continued its consultations yesterday on ways to placate the party's far Right supporters.

It is doubtful that the Langenthal proposal will be brought to the central committee. Indeed, the idea may only defeat its purpose, since it would mean moving down other MKs that represent the settlement movement to slots that are not considered safe. MK Nissan Slomiansky, longtime mayor of Elkana and a Gush Emunim founder, was elected to the No. 6 slot, while No. 7 is Zvi Hendel is from Gush Katif.

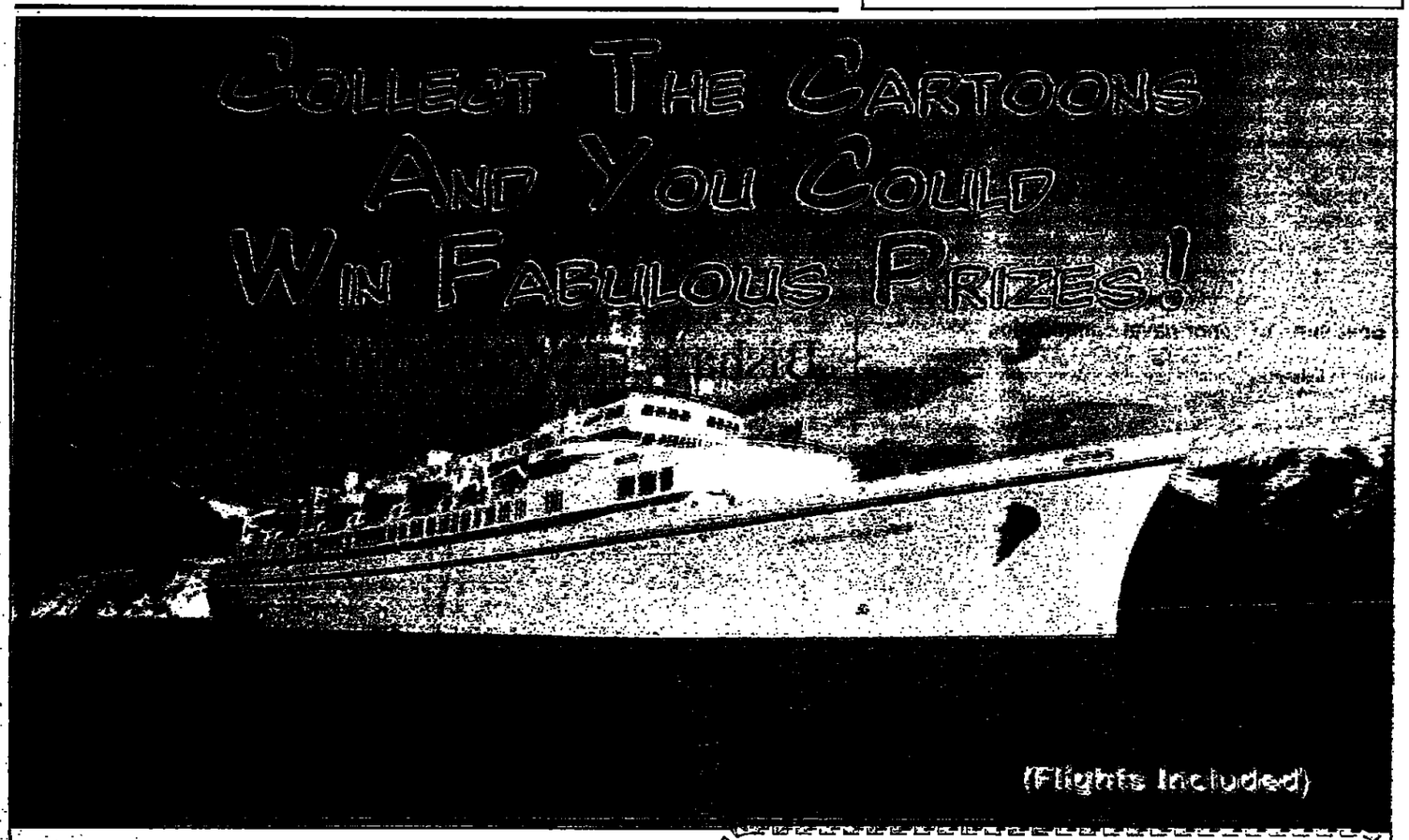
Another problem is that the No. 8 slot was reserved for a woman and was won by Gila Finkelstein. She said yesterday that "as it is, the women are unhappy about getting a spot that may not be realistic."

Party sources said the aim is to resolve quickly the situation created by the Porat affair so it can plan its campaign. It is also considering other ideas to give a voice to the right-wing sector of the religious public, due to its concern about a loss of votes to Tekuma. One idea being proposed is to give Porat a job as a party functionary.

ON THE RECORD

I just had a chance to hitch a ride with the president – Center Party leader **Yitzhak Mordechai**, when asked if there was any political meaning to his flying in President Ezer Weizman's helicopter on the way to a condolence call to the family of Maj. Eitan Balahsan.

Don't bother me with this, okay. It has no significance – **Weizman**, in response to the same question.



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NEWS
in brief

Police again question Hanegbi

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was questioned under caution again yesterday regarding allegations that he received a salary totaling over NIS 100,000 from a non-profit organization he headed, despite the law prohibiting MKs from moonlighting. According to Hanegbi, who has been questioned several times previously, the money he received represented only reimbursement for expenses. Hanegbi headed Derech Tzaleha from 1994-1996. He also chaired the Knesset Economics Committee at the time, raising the suspicion of a conflict of interest. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Women's Corps head to address UN conference

OC Women's Corps Brig.-Gen. Orit Adato is to be part of the Israeli delegation to the annual conference on women at the United Nations next week. Adato is scheduled to give an address on Thursday entitled "The role of women in the Israeli Defense Forces as a mechanism for improving the status of women." *Arieh O'Sullivan*

New director-general named at Health Ministry

Prof. Yehoshua Shemer yesterday agreed to be acting Health Ministry director-general, after Prof. Gabi Barabash asked to return to his previous position as director-general of Ichilov Hospital, Tel Aviv. Barabash, who intended to hold the post for only two years, remained for a longer period after Health Minister Yehoshua Matza requested him to stay on for several months. Shemer, a 51-year-old professor of internal medicine at Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine, has been associate director-general of the ministry for over a year and established a new unit for medical technologies and infrastructures. *Judy Siegel*

Court issues jail term in 'pogrom' case

By AMY KLEIN and DAN IZENBERG

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday sentenced Yehoshua Weiss, 28, to eight months in prison with a four-month suspended sentence for his part in what police called a haredi "pogrom" against the apartments of three Swiss women in Mea She'arim last November.

Weiss was convicted of conspiracy to commit a crime, breaking and entering, arson and wilful property damage. The sentence includes the time he has already spent in jail since his arrest, meaning that Weiss will go free in less than five months.

The prosecution had asked the court for a sentence of 24 to 30 months.

Last November hundreds of haredim ransacked the women's apartments because they thought they were Christian missionaries, police said.

The mob threw the women's belongings onto the street and badly damaged what they could not move. Another mob set fire to the items on the street.

Most of the perpetrators fled before police arrived, but Weiss was caught trying to escape from the roof of the building. Later that month police arrested ten other haredim for the crime.

Weiss and two others – one a minor –were held until the end of legal proceedings. The other two have not yet been convicted. Judge Yaffa Hecht rejected Weiss's defense that he was in the apartment for two hours "out of curiosity."

She said she sentenced him to eight months due to his limited complicity and because he was not one of its initiators.

Still, Hecht said Weiss's actions "deserve complete condemnation," because his purpose was "to decimate, burn and destroy" the property.

Following the verdict dozens of haredim attempted to block Shabbat Square in Mea She'arim, overturning garbage bins.

Hundreds of haredim also held a prayer meeting in the Batei Ungarin neighborhood of Mea She'arim and then drove to the United Nations office in east Talpiot, where they chained themselves to the steps in front of the building and held up signs bearing slogans such as "End racism and apartheid."

They also submitted a letter for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan asking him to intercede on behalf of haredim in the case.



Three elderly haredim, handcuffed together as part of their protest, demonstrate outside the United Nations office in Jerusalem yesterday in an appeal for international intercession on behalf of three haredim prosecuted for ransacking the apartments of suspected missionaries in Mea She'arim last November. (Isaac Harari)

Drugstore 2000 ready to open again on Shabbat

By AMY KLEIN

The haredi-secular fight over the opening Jerusalem's Drugstore 2000 on Shabbat might be over before it reaches fever pitch.

If owner Yitzhak Eisencott employs Arab workers on Shabbat, as he said he would yesterday, Labor and Social Affairs Ministry workers will not be able to fine him for violating the law.

Last week, Druse workers from the ministry came to the store three times to fine Eisencott, who was only there twice, and received a fine of NIS 5,000 each time.

Jerusalem city councilman Orman Yekutieli yesterday called for a Shabbat demonstration in front of the store at 3 p.m. Yekutieli said his organization, Free Nation, will represent Eisencott in court to oppose the NIS 10,000 in fines.

Ministry spokesman Nahum Ido said he will send the workers again, but he will not be able to fine the store's owners if the employees aren't Jewish, because the Work and Rest Hours Law only applies to Jews.

The ministry has three Druse teams that work on Shabbat around the country to fine store owners, visiting about 48 businesses every weekend.

Eisencott is trying to "lower the tension" over the the store's Shabbat operation, he said yesterday. "I hope I won't get any more fines, because I can't afford it," he said, "but I just want this ruckus to end."

Plan to abolish religious councils gains support

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The plan of Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to scrap the religious councils entirely, ostensibly to prevent Reform and Conservative participation, received further support from those same denominations yesterday.

"We will welcome any initiative to cancel the religious councils altogether," said Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the Masorti Movement and the Conservative member of the Jerusalem Religious Council.

"The inefficiency and the politicalization of the religious council is a disaster, and anything that you can do to stop this politicalization and waste of public money will be welcome by the Masorti movement."

Bakshi-Doron said yesterday in a radio interview that he favors eliminating the councils and having the local authorities provide the services, or establishing religious councils for the Reform and Conservative communities.

He said Shas and the National Religious Party are also in favor of scrapping the councils.

"As far as we are concerned, we are interested in maintaining the basic principles that are appropriate to a Jewish and democratic state," said Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center.

"Indeed, the state will provide religious services, but it will provide them on an equal, egalitarian, administratively appropriate basis. This can be provided through a municipal organ, provided everybody is represented around the table. There are a number of ways to go about it."

The danger, according to Bandel and Regev, is if any new configuration would attempt to keep out Reform and Conservative representatives.

"If this initiative is really to advance and promote the religious services, then we will give our blessings to it," Bandel said. "But if the only thing they have in mind is a way to prevent us, against the court rulings, from serving and being members and to get our share in the religious services, of course we will oppose and fight it."

Bandel said that the idea of forming religious councils for different streams "is an interesting idea, it's worth consideration, we certainly do not reject it. But if anyone wants to seriously discuss it, they he should discuss it with the parties, namely with the Masorti movement and the Reform movement.

"If they will approach us they will find in us allies and partners to work together to advance religion services for the entire Jewish population."

Marilyn Henry adds:

More than 5,000 American haredim will hold a prayer vigil in Lower Manhattan late Sunday in solidarity with the haredi demonstration two weeks ago in Jerusalem.

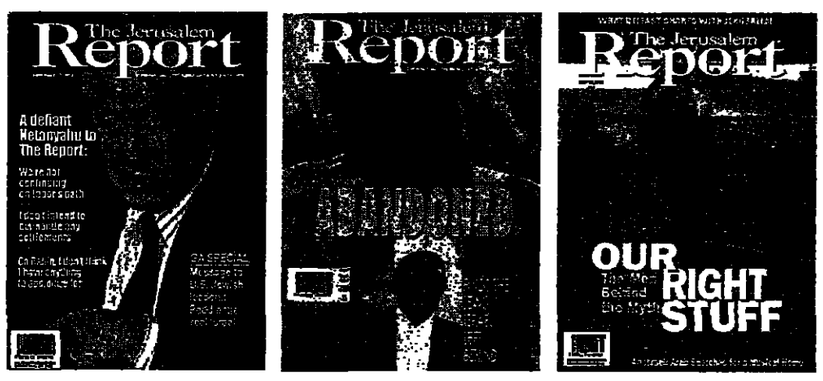
"It will be held on behalf of Judaism in the Holy Land, but it is not aimed at any institution," said one of the organizers. "This will have a religious flavor, not a political one."

The demonstration is loosely organized and is not sponsored by any particular group, although it is expected to draw heavily from supporters of Agudath Israel.

Although the American haredi community, like that in Israel, has significant grievances with the rulings of the Israeli Supreme Court, the event is expected to be quiet, the organizer said.

"This will be just prayer," he said.

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Kahalani introduces crime-prevention plan

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

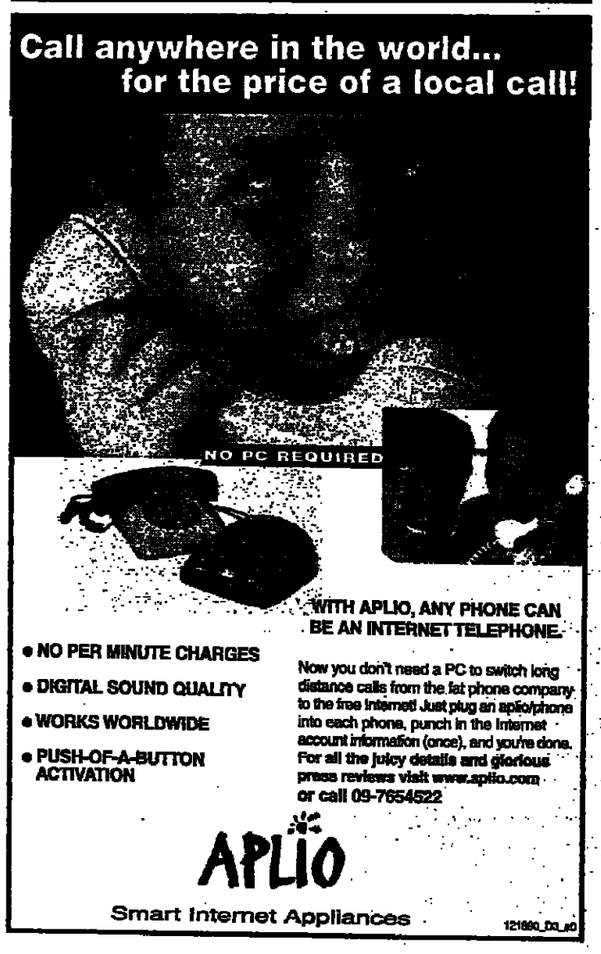
The Israel Police is changing direction, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday, in order better to serve the nation's residents.

The streets are going to be significantly safer, he said, explaining that 10 percent of the policemen now working in offices are switching to fieldwork. This will allow policemen to patrol schools and the areas around them more frequently, he said.

This is one of the changes Kahalani approved yesterday, after a committee comprising representatives from the Union of Local Authorities, police and ministry presented its recommendations on how police and local authorities can work together more effectively. Kahalani approved all of the committee's recommendations, some of which are already being implemented.

For example, the police have opened several "community police stations," most recently in Holon earlier this week. These stations will be in direct contact with the social services and the municipality in order to deal with complaints more efficiently.

The committee had been working since August 1997 to find cost-effective ways to improve crime prevention, a ULA spokesman said. The committee suggested broadening the authority and responsibilities of municipal inspectors, who already are on the municipal payroll, so that the municipality would not have to pay the police department to hire policemen to perform certain tasks. For example, following a successful pilot program in Ra'anana, traffic inspectors will be certified to direct traffic.



US Holocaust survivors to get $500 each from Swiss fund

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Some 60,000 Holocaust survivors in the US this weekend are expected to receive about $500 each from the Swiss humanitarian fund for needy Nazi victims, fund officials said.

The distribution, on the eve of the second anniversary of the fund, was delayed in part because the American survivors' organization refused to impose a needs test, arguing that the money is an "entitlement."

Fund officials complained that the survivors had helped negotiate the rules and had to abide by them.

The humanitarian fund was created on March 1, 1997 and is separate from the $1.25 billion Swiss banks settlement that was signed in January. There is not yet a distribution plan for those funds.

The allocation for the Israeli survivors from the humanitarian fund, SFr 270 million from Swiss banks and industry, is not expected before late summer. It was delayed by a dispute between Israeli survivors and the government over who would control the allocation.

Some 40,000 survivors in Eastern Europe have received payments of about $400 each, although they had been told in mid-1997 that they would receive $1,000.

There are an estimated 120,000 survivors in the US. Last year Nahos, the National Association of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors, issued a public appeal asking most survivors in the US to resist applying for the humanitarian fund.

"Anyone who is not truly indigent and manages to draw from this fund will not be taking money from the Swiss or the Germans," Nahos said. "That individual would be taking away financial aid from impoverished survivors."

However, that call went largely unheeded. For instance, a group of survivors from the Baltic states urged its 500 members in the US to apply, regardless of need, and to use the funds to benefit survivors remaining in Eastern Europe.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Meridor named next Agency head

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Jewish Agency Treasurer Salai Meridor was unanimously approved by the agency's Board of Governors yesterday as acting chairman of its executive, and will replace Avraham Burg when he takes an expected leave of absence to assume a central role in the Labor Party's election campaign.

Burg will not begin his leave until an acting treasurer is found, and will officially hand over the chairmanship to Meridor when he takes office as an MK, probably sometime in June.

The board also unanimously approved the appointment of Alex Grass as its new chairman, replacing Charles (Corky) Goodman, to be ratified by the assembly in June.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, agency officials, and leading members of the North American Jewish community are forming a blue-ribbon committee to examine the full implications of the creation of the new body, temporarily called Newco, which unifies the Council of Jewish Federations, United Jewish Appeal, and United Israel Appeal. This follows increased concern here that the new body may give greater priority to Diaspora needs in its allocations.

Meridor's appointment officially opened the search for an acting treasurer. The candidates submitted by Labor Party leader Ehud Barak are Haim Chesler, co-chairman of the agency's immigration and absorption committee, MK Rafi Elul, and Shai Hermesh, head of the Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council.

Both Meridor and the acting treasurer will serve until June, when they will be voted in by the agency assembly as chairman of the executive and treasurer, respectively, in accordance with a resolution passed yesterday by the board of governors.

"I never wanted to put this organization into a situation of a conflict of interest between my political activities vis-a-vis the elections and the Jewish Agency, and therefore, if I have an active role in the campaign, I will immediately step down," Burg said. "It seems I will have an active role, and it's impossible to leave the situation in a void, and therefore the board of governors reapproved what it approved a year ago, in December 1997, which is a rotation agreement."

Observers said that the move was regarded as a victory for both Burg and Meridor, aimed at preventing any other potential Likud candidate from bypassing Meridor for the position.

However, Netanyahu's adviser on Diaspora affairs, Bobby Brown, denied there was ever any such intention, adding the Likud is happy with Meridor's appointment.



Meridor: Sounding a call for unity. (Joe Malcolm)

The blue-ribbon committee, established at Netanyahu's suggestion, will include two representatives of the government, two representatives of the agency, and four representatives of Newco. "I think there are fears in Israel of not having an impact on what are the vital interests of the State of Israel, of Jewish communities around the world, and where that is codified in the new organization," Brown said.

"Certainly, the prime minister is in favor of having a strong central body, and is very interested in that body being able to make decisions for US Jewry. He also has no doubt that the leadership is very pro-Israel and pro-Jewish Agency, but nowhere was that codified in the blueprint that was created. The idea of the panel, which was accepted unanimously by the North American leadership parties, is to make sure that what is felt on two sides will be written down as part of the understanding, part of the new structure being formed at this point."

During yesterday's session, Council of Jewish Federations chairman Conrad Giles and United Israel Appeal chairman Bennett Aaron attempted to assuage fears expressed by board of governors delegates regarding Newco. Giles said the new arrangement will only result in "increased dollars for this great enterprise," and Aaron said "the voices of those who care about this institution will be heard."

Meridor, sounding a call for unity, said: "What we have achieved in this century was when and because we were united and together worldwide for the Jewish people and for Israel... I hope we will be strong enough and wise enough to work together to reach that outcome which is so important for the Jewish people and Israel."

Agency workers union head Yona Bezaleli, however, demanded that Newco representatives keep in mind the UIA's commitment to the workers' pension funds, which will total some $200 million by 2000.

Police prevent Peace Now from protesting at Goldstein tomb

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Plans by Peace Now activists to hold a protest vigil outside the grave of Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba yesterday were foiled by police, who turned back the protesters before they reached the site.

Peace Now had planned to hold a vigil on the fifth anniversary of the massacre in which Goldstein killed 29 Arab worshipers, and to call for the dismantling of the gravesite – which has become a de facto shrine – in compliance with a bill passed in the Knesset last year.

Instead, police pulled over a busload of activists and the car driven by the movement's leader Mossy Raz, on the highway leading to Hebron at Neveh Daniel, not far from Gush Etzion junction, and forbade them to continue.

At first, the activists were told they were being stopped because there had been a road accident. Then police told the activists the area had been declared a closed military zone, that they would be unable to continue to Kiryat Arba, and advised them to return home.

Several activists got out of the bus and attempted to block traffic on the highway. Police forced them off the road, arresting 10, including Raz, and took them to nearby Gush Etzion police station for questioning. Raz's car and one or two others were confiscated by police, and a tow truck hauled them away

Arriving at the scene Judea and Samaria police chief Cmdr. Yitzhak Aharonovitch declared the police would not allow citizens to block highways and would ensure that law and order is maintained.

"The IDF declared the area a closed military zone and we must enforce that order. Whoever wants to reach Hebron can submit a request and it will be dealt with in the proper channels. These people didn't ask permission and this is the result."



Police arrest a Peace Now demonstrator on the road leading to Hebron, near the Neveh Daniel junction, yesterday, after preventing demonstrators from traveling to Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba to hold a protest vigil. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Asked about the physical force police used against the demonstrators Aharonovitch suggested that all complaints be submitted to the police's internal investigation department, who would check the claims.

"We plan to file a complaint," said Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Yaari. "Women were dragged by policemen. This would never happen with settlers. The police used unnecessary force on our people."

Yaari said she was astounded at the way the police had treated them. "For five years we hold protest vigils at the gravesite and leave, we don't interfere with the locals and nothing has ever happened. There has never been a problem before," she said. Activists from Tel Aviv who drove via Beit Shemesh were cut off from the group, she said, and stranded

Avi, in his early twenties, wearing a knitted kippa, declared it was a sad day for democracy. "People who want to hold a protest vigil at Goldstein's gravesite are prevented from reaching Kiryat Arba and yet no one stops those who perceive Goldstein as a hero from flocking to his grave daily," he said.

Yaari added, "The police have decided to deny us our democratic rights and arrest us but allow the settlers to continue breaking the law."

A small group of protesters who had not been arrested sat on the road refusing to move. Elaine Shtdeinfeld, a Peace Now activist from Tel Aviv, declared "They won't stop us. We will come back... and demand they dismantle the shrine which shames every Israeli. I am shamed and humiliated that the grave of a murderer is allowed to stay."

Close to noon the group dispersed, returning to Jerusalem in the bus in order to drive back in private vehicles to their comrades detained in Gush Etzion.

Victims' families differ on question of forgiveness

By BEN LYNFIELD

Two women from two Palestinian families that lost loved ones to settler gunman Baruch Goldstein five years ago yesterday recalled the carnage with similar attention to detail and a pain that brought them to the verge of tears.

The mother, Badria Ashour, lost her 14-year-old son, Tarek, who was in the back row of worshipers at the Machpela Cave, revered by Moslems as the Ibrahimi Mosque.

The daughter, Abir Abu Sneineh, lost her father, Abdel-Rahim, a storekeeper who took a bullet in his back and another in his heart.

Both the Ashours and the Abu Sneinehs adorn their entrances with a poster with pictures of the 29 *shuhada*, or martyrs, of the massacre. The poster reads: "So that we don't forget the massacre"

While the Moslem calendar anniversary of the massacre was marked in December, yesterday's Gregorian calendar anniversary was also noted by many families.

The tragedy has clearly had different impacts on Ashour and Abu Sneineh and they diverge on the question of whether forgiveness is possible.

The differences appear to reflect a gap in age and life experience between the two: The more forgiving Ashour is a mother of five surviving children, the oldest being 27; Abu Sneineh, 18, a senior at a Moslem religious high school who "grew up without a father," scorns the idea of forgiveness.

"I didn't know there was a massacre," Ashour said, about the morning she lost her son. "I went outside of my house and I saw people looking at my house.

"They knew my son was killed, but I didn't know. The relatives said Tarek was wounded in the leg. I cried out. Then many cars came here. I rushed towards them, I saw him wrapped in a blanket. I jumped over the fence. I cried out and I tore my clothes."

"They tried to comfort me by saying he was a martyr. They put him on the carpet. He was soaked in blood. I couldn't see his face, only blood. I couldn't give him a farewell.

"I have cried on every holiday since then," said his mother. Still, she added "the pain has become less with the passing years."

Asked how the massacre has affected her view of Israelis, Ashour said: "I don't like to see the Jews. But not all of them are guilty. Sometimes I think there are many good ones. There are good ones and bad ones and some of them have good hearts."

"Yes," she said when asked whether she could forgive Israel. "This forgiveness is from God. And it is from my heart. We don't want war for our children. We want our children to live. I don't support revenge. There will be no result from this."

Across town, near the site of the carnage, Abu Sneineh said: "The wounds will never heal. I remember my father all the time.

"I was the youngest and got special treatment from my father," she added.

Abu Sneineh recalled that her father normally did not pray at the Ibrahimi Mosque, but had chosen to do so that day because it was one of the most sacred days of Ramadan.

"The first news was that he was wounded and we tried to help by offering blood," she said.

But in fact, Abu Sneineh had died in the mosque.

"I know that when *mujahidin* [holy warriors] do martyrdom attacks, they [Israelis] think we are killing innocent people," she said.

"But I swear by God if I saw Goldstein, I'd tear him apart because he took my precious father.

"I have brothers, they can protect me, but the protection of a father is heavenly. Without a father, life is incomplete."

"This peace is only new words," Abu Sneineh said, referring to the Oslo process. "It is not in the Koran. They talk about land for peace and we can't accept these words."

New US heart technique performed at Rambam

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 63-year-old Haifa heart patient yesterday became the first person outside the US to undergo focussed radiotherapy inside a coronary artery to prevent the vessel from becoming clogged again. The highly unusual treatment, which is likely to become the treatment of choice for patients at high risk for restenosis (repeated clogging of arteries), was performed yesterday at Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Rambam specially brought over world expert Dr. Paul Terstein, director of interventional cardiology at the Scripps Clinic in California, to assist its own chief of invasive cardiology, Prof. Rafael Beyar, in the procedure.

The technique, known as endovascular brachytherapy, is performed with a special device called a Gamma IRT Catheter. The technique is aimed at the 20 percent of patients who underwent coronary angioplasty (balloon therapy for clogged coronary arteries) and insertion of a supportive stent (a metallic coil that holds the vessel open) and later suffer recurrent restenosis.

The radiation is focussed and controlled to prevent any harm to the patient; it reaches only that interior section of the coronary artery that was clogged. Three years of follow-up in the US have shown extremely low restenosis rates after endovascular brachytherapy.

Brachytherapy itself has been used for 25 years against tumors in the lungs, esophagus, cervix and endometrium of the uterus.

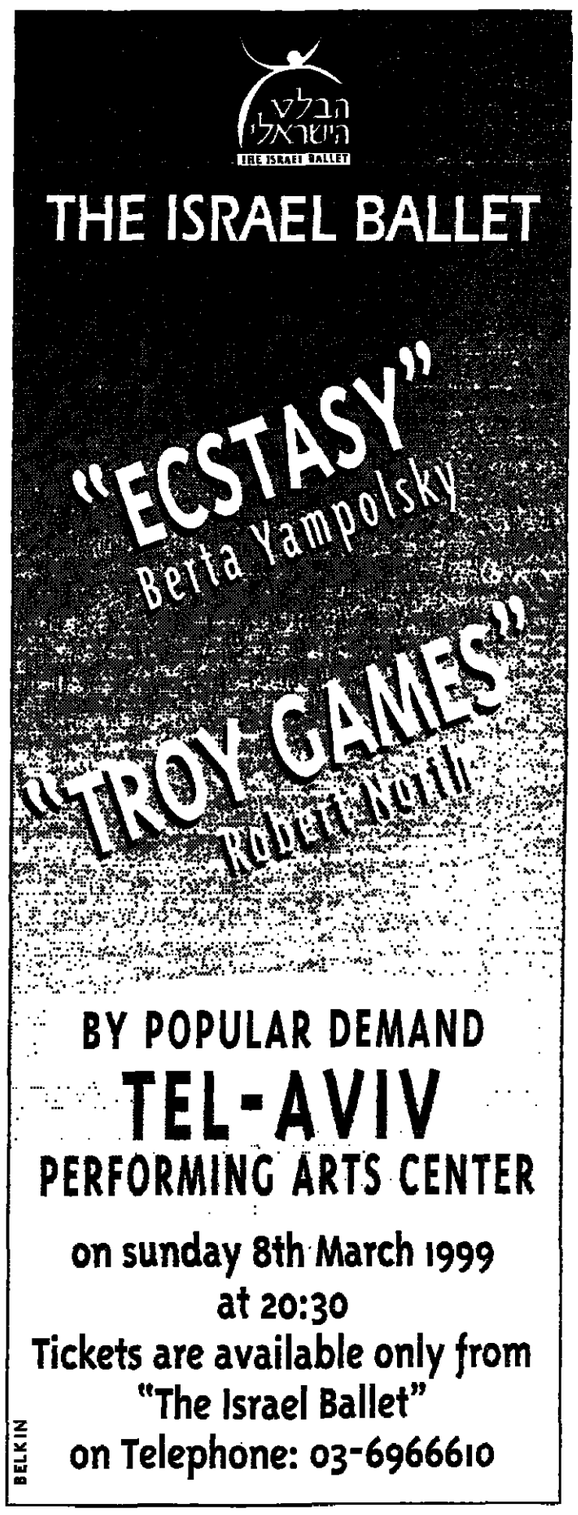


AACI התאחדות עולי אמריקה וקנדה בישראל
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Lauryn Hill breaks Grammy record

By BETH HARRIS

Hip-hop star Lauryn Hill broke a record for female artists with five Grammy Awards on Wednesday night, and the *Titanic* ballad "My Heart Will Go On" sailed on with four awards, including song and record of the year.

"This is so amazing... this is crazy because it's hip-hop music," said Hill, who stepped away from the Fugees to win album of the year for *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* and best new artist.

It was the first time a rap artist had ever won in those major Grammy categories.

Madonna, now that she's turned 40, won her first musical Grammys, including best pop album for her excursion into electronica, *Ray of Light*. She also won best dance recording and best short form music video.

Shania Twain, Stevie Wonder, the Dixie Chicks and the Brian Setzer Orchestra each were double winners.

The 23-year-old Hill, who led with 10 nominations in nine categories, also won best rhythm and blues album. Her hit song, "Doo Wop (That Thing)" won best R&B song and best R&B vocal performance.

Hill's best new artist win was something of a misnomer, since she won two past Grammys with the Fugees. She read a passage from the Bible and thanked her children for, among other things, "not spilling anything on mommy's outfit."

Hill, whose music mixes rap and R&B and touches on family and political issues, beat Carole King's record for most Grammys ever by a female artist in one night.

King won four in 1971 for *Tapestry*.

"My Heart Will Go On" also won the female pop vocal for Celine Dion and as best song written for a motion picture or television. James Horner and Will Jennings picked up the writing trophies.

Dion thanked James Cameron, director of *Titanic*, for "letting this song be part of this magic moment – a beautiful movie." Horner told the Shrine Auditorium and national television audiences he initially considered the song just a movie theme.

The Academy Award for best song was one of 11 Oscars for *Titanic*. The soundtrack was the top-selling album of 1998, with more than 9 million units sold.

Actor-rapper Will Smith won best rap song for his good-natured "Gettin' Jiggy Wit It." He paid tribute to God, "the jiggiest wife in the world" (actress Jada Pinkett Smith), and his son, about whom he received bad news in his first parent-teacher conference Wednesday.

"His rhyming skills are down," Smith said. "I swear – that's what the teacher told me. That's just pure parental neglect."

In another rap category, Jay-Z's *Vol. 2... Hard Knock Life* won best album. The rapper had said he would skip the show because he doesn't like the way the Grammys treat rap. The Beastie Boys won duo or group performance for *Intergalactic*.

In his 12th Grammy victory of the 1990s, Eric Clapton won male pop vocal for "My Father's Eyes." Crow won best rock album for *The Globe Sessions* and paid tribute to A and M Records, just swallowed up in a corporate merger.

"This is a really nice thing for me," she said, adding, "I want Lauryn Hill to produce my next record."

The Dixie Chicks' *Wide Open Spaces* was an upset winner for best country album over the better-known Garth Brooks and Twain.

"We're freaking out," the tearful trio said in accepting the award.

After singing professionally for 51 years, Patti Page won a Grammy on her first and only nomination – for best traditional pop vocal performance for *Live At Carnegie Hall, The 50th Anniversay*. She accepted her trophy Wednesday with thankfulness and humor.

When the first of her 11 grandchildren was born, Page noted backstage that her family members asked what they should name the baby. "Grammy," Page replied, "because I'll never get one."

"You're Still the One" won best country song for Twain and husband Robert John "Mutt" Lange and female country vocal performance for Twain. Vince Gill won best male country vocal performance for "If You Ever Have Forever in Mind."

Best female rock vocal performance went to Alanis Morissette for "Uninvited. The Setzer Orchestra, riding the swing revival, captured two pop honors, performance by a duo or group and instrumental performance.

The male R&B vocal Grammy went to Wonder for "St. Louis Blues." The tune also earned him and two colleagues the award for instrumental arrangement with vocals.

The two Grammys brought Wonder's career total to 21.

Brandy and Monica won the R&B duo or group performance trophy for "The Boy Is Mine."

Burt Bacharach had his first win since 1986, giving him Grammys in three different decades. He received his first in 1967, two in 1969 and another in 1986.

He and Elvis Costello won for pop collaboration with vocals on "I Still Have That Other Girl." It was Costello's first Grammy.

"I can't say I've learned any of Burt's secrets because I can't write like him," said Costello, who has gained fame for songs such as "Veronica."

(News Agencies)



Grammy Award winners (from left to right) Sheryl Crow, Lauryn Hill, Celine Dion, and Will Smith. (AP)

Now, hip-hop's kosher

By ROBERT HILBURN

Before saying goodbye to the Grammys for another year, here's a final set of nominees to consider.

The category: Who was Wednesday's biggest winner? The nominees:

a) Lauryn Hill, who won more Grammys than any other female artist ever in a single year–five, including best album for *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*.

b) Grammy credibility. After years of embarrassing choices, Grammy voters have made the most deserving back-to-back best album judgments since Paul Simon's *Graceland* and U2's *The Joshua Tree* won in 1986 and 1987, respectively.

c) Women. Hill's victory was the fifth time in the '90s that a woman has won in the best-album category – a sign that there is finally equal opportunity in what was once a male-dominated pop world.

d) Madonna. After years of being ignored by Grammy voters, the former Material Girl finally won three awards, including best pop album for *Ray of Light*.

e) Hip-Hop. The *Miseducation* victory was the first time a hip-hop – or rap – album had ever won in the Grammy's most coveted category, a sign that the music, so maligned over the last two decades – has finally won widespread industry acceptance.

There are reasons to vote for all the choices, but the best answer is "e" – hip-hop itself.

MUCH like rock 'n' roll before it, hip-hop has had to struggle for acceptance against a skeptical adult pop audience. The knock against this sometimes raw and radical style initially was that hip-hop wasn't really music. Pop traditionalists couldn't understand that an art form could be built around turn-table scratching and lyrics that were spoken rather than sung.

When hip-hop entered the pop charts through Sugarhill Gang's "Rapper's Delight" in 1979, it was dismissed as lightweight. By the time that Run-DMC rerecorded Aerosmith's "Walk This Way" in the late '80s, the music took on a harder edge that attracted young rock fans.

But the chances of it moving into the adult pop diet pretty much ended with gangsta rap of N.W.A, a sometimes violent and misogynistic style that has become synonymous with hip-hop in the public's mind.

THERE have been positive voices who could appeal to a wider audience, but no one has linked the heart of hip-hop and R&B to pop traditions as brilliantly as Hill in *Miseducation*. In the collection, the 23-year-old emerges as an ambassador for hip-hop the same way one of her heroes, Bob Marley, once served as an ambassador for reggae. She has not only helped lift the art form to a new level, mixing it with the craft and accessibility of Stevie Wonder. By selling nearly 4 million copies of *Miseducation*, she also has shown other hip-hop artists that they can venture away from the "thug life" themes and image and still be hugely successful.

Hers was also a moment of triumph for everyone who cares about the future of pop music. Hill's Grammy awards made it official: Hip-hop is now a strong – and welcome – part of our pop experience.

(Los Angeles Times)

LABOR

Continued from Page 1

Lahiani, who narrowly lost the Bat Yam mayoralty in November, is said to be miffed that Barak has reneged on his previous promise to reserve the 11th slot for him. The outcry this generated in the party led Barak to change his offer to the 34th slot.

Sources close to Barak say that beggars can't be choosers and that none of the those being considered for slots under the One Israel framework have another way of getting into the Knesset.

News that the deals are on the verge of completion has already fanned flames in Labor. Those who won marginal slots have banded together to foil any additions to the list, except Levy himself and a single Meimad candidate.

Representatives of the group met with Barak for over three hours yesterday and warned him that the central committee meeting at which the co-options will come up for approval will be extremely stormy if he decides to ignore their protests. Former MK Eli Dayan told Barak that he plans to request a secret ballot at the committee, in which case there is no guarantee how the members will vote.

MK Shevah Weiss argued that Barak is bringing aboard "not groups which can appreciably bolster his electoral prospects, but virtual factions and freeloading hitchhikers."

MK Eli Ben-Menahem argued that "the greatest travesty of all is the Lahiani episode. We have plenty of Lahianis already among us."

Barak dismissed the criticism, saying that "crybabies will not bring us victory."

He also told the gathering that those who might be edged out of the Knesset should recall that there are other jobs for them if Labor is victorious. The Labor dissidents were also warned that if they attempt to sabotage or delay the One Israel plan, they will be doing great harm to Barak's prime ministerial campaign. If the deals are not closed very soon, they were told, Barak's image and personal credibility will suffer.

WANTED

Continued from Page 1

The owners of the establishment were also stabbed, but they survived.

"There is no apparent motive. It was not a robbery, not a rape," Rosenthal said. "The people didn't know each other. It appears that he killed for the experience of doing it."

Rosenthal declined to say if Goldberg, who had been enrolled in the University of Houston, had a previous police record.

Goldberg is thought to have fled last month. Israeli officials told Rosenthal that the suspect was not in the country. His father, Isaac Goldberg, lives in Houston; his grandparents live in Israel.

The Israelis are cooperating with Harris County officials, Rosenthal said, adding, "There's not much they can do if he is not there."

If convicted, Goldberg faces a life sentence. Although Texas has the death penalty, this is not a capital case, Rosenthal said.

In another development, US Representative Kevin Brady, a Texas Republican, said he will ask Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to apply diplomatic pressure to help locate Goldberg.

"I want to bring every pressure possible, whether it's political, diplomatic, or financial pressure, to make sure there is no hiding place for suspects anywhere on the globe," Brady told The Houston Chronicle.

Brady also said he would introduce legislation requiring that extradition treaties be changed so other nations cannot harbor suspects wanted for crimes in the US.

However, he said he has no evidence that Goldberg sought sanctuary in Israel.

"We respect their sovereignty. We recognize every country has reasons for their laws," Brady said. "However, for the sake of the victims and their families, America must insist countries not allow themselves to become a safe harbor."

US

Continued from Page 1

He added that the embassy has been receiving calls from many in the Jewish community concerned over potential ramifications for Jews. Embassy officials have been explaining to them "that Israel is a nation of laws, just like the US, and that the Supreme Court works just like the US Supreme Court... and that we're not talking about giving refuge – this is one of the central points."

Gansler told reporters at the county court house that "to say we are deeply disappointed is an understatement," but that he intends "to cooperate fully with Israeli the authorities in the effective and fair prosecution of [Sheinbein] in Israel."

He reiterated that he has received Israeli assurances that Jerusalem will cover the travel costs for the victim's family to attend the trial.

"We are very disappointed by this ruling. We want Sheinbein to be tried in Montgomery County," said a State Department official, adding that the US would be consulting with the Israeli government on whether the case could be reviewed.

Israeli government officials said they hope the ruling will not hamper relations with the US, adding that Sheinbein will stand trial in Israel.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who promised Albright in an exchange of letters last year that he would fully cooperate in extradition efforts, said he was disappointed by the decision.

"We did want to see extradition," Netanyahu told reporters in Tel Aviv, but added: "We are a country of law. In a country of law, the law is interpreted by the Supreme Court."

The Prime Minister's Office declared in a statement: "We hope and are sure that the US, as an enlightened state of law, will accept the ruling of the Israeli Supreme Court, which is known to be independent and apolitical."

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "The decisions of the Supreme Court are, of course, completely autonomous in the framework of complete respect for the principle of the separation of powers. Israel believes that the American public and its leaders, in recognition of, and out of respect for our common values, will understand that the decision is proper."

The US Embassy spokesman's office said "the embassy is studying the court decision," adding that officials were waiting to hear from Washington.

Tello's murder was one of the most grisly reported in the Washington area in several years. Police found a circular power saw and several propane cylinders in the garage near the victim's body, which was without arms and legs and burned almost beyond recognition.

Sheinbein fled to Israel after the body was discovered and was arrested soon after his arrival. He then claimed Israeli citizenship because his father was born there.

Sheinbein's alleged accomplice, Aaron Needle, 18, committed suicide two days before the start of his trial last April. Needle was found hanging by a bedsheet in a cell in the Maryland detention center where he was awaiting trial.

Margot Dudkevitch, Liat Collins, and news agencies contributed to this report.

E-MAIL

Continued from Page 1

"We're looking into the possibility of using technology that will automatically acknowledge messages upon receipt, then give officials time to answer. But we hope the ministries will intensify their efforts, and that in a few months, all queries will be answered."

But some ministry staffers who took the e-mail course said the lessons "didn't give us much."

And one clerk in a spokesman's office said that despite the course, "our office still isn't hooked up to e-mail."

Health Ministry spokesman Yoram Malka, who himself had failed to respond to the anonymous e-mail message, commented later that "the system is being broken in and the lessons are being learned, while training of staffers is receiving top priority."

In six months or so, Warhaftig said, some ministries' Web sites will offer computerized forms that can be filled out on-line instead of visiting a government office. He agreed that the new state "Internet gate" listing all e-mail addresses and all state Web sites (at www.info.gov.il) "isn't good enough."

But when it improves, and when the Freedom of Information Act goes into effect this summer, he concluded, citizens will be able to receive a great deal of information about ministry functions and activities and their rights.

COURT

Continued from Page 1

In justifying the amendment, Begin told the Knesset that "we must also take into account the complex, sensitive and unique situation in which Jews find themselves in foreign countries. Even though there is freedom and equality before the law in most countries, it is best that when the strong arm of the law is applied against [a Jew], it be Israeli law."

Or also quoted from another section of the Knesset protocols to prove that the MKs understood at the time that the law would protect Israelis who had emigrated and built their lives elsewhere.

Or also addressed the US's insistence that Sheinbein be extradited.

"I can't help but feel that [Barak's] argument, whereby we ought to interpret the term "citizenship" as requiring residency in Israel, was born out of concern about the undesirable consequences that might follow from Israel's refusal to extradite the appellant."

Or wrote that he did not believe there would be a problem in prosecuting Sheinbein in Israel because "it appears the appellant is ready to make significant concessions in the trial proceedings. From the arguments presented to the court, it sounds like he intends to plead guilty."

Asked about Or's assessment of the defense counsel's intentions, attorney Eitan Ma'oz, who represented Sheinbein along with Liba'i, told The Jerusalem Post: "If it turns out to be impossible to conduct an effective trial, we will consider the possibility of speeding things up. We are prepared to consider all the possibilities."

He did not elaborate.

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Austrian avalanche death toll soars

By ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS

LANDECK, Austria (AP) – Rescuers yesterday raced to find survivors of two killer avalanches in the Austrian Alps that have left at least 32 people dead and six missing.

One bright spot emerged amid the tragedy. A 4-year-old Austrian boy dug out of the snow in Valzur on Wednesday and pronounced "clinically dead" has been resuscitated by doctors and was able to communicate at a hospital in nearby Zams.

"When he arrived at the hospital he had a pacifier in his mouth, and he even smiled a little," Dr. Alois Schranz told the Austria Press Agency.

"Nothing serious has resulted from all the basic tests we made that are usual in case of avalanche victims," he later told the Associated Press.

Dozens of helicopters ferried hundreds of tourists from around Galtuer in Austria's western Tyrol region yesterday.

The risk of avalanches remained extremely high throughout the Alps. Sunny weather made rescue efforts smoother, but authorities warned that melting snow heightened the already-high risk of further avalanches.

Ski lifts and slopes have been closed for more than 10 days, though German media has reported that some people are still skiing.

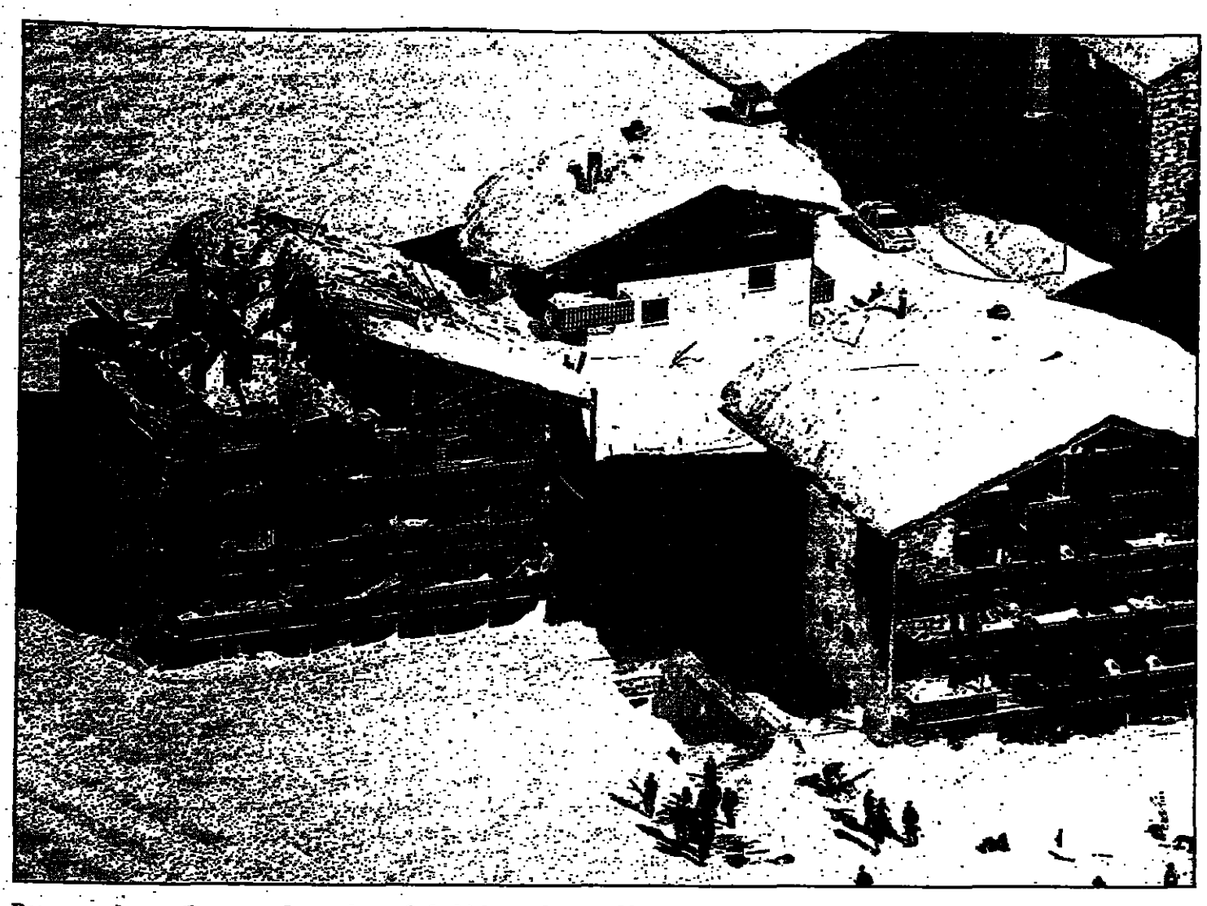
A total of 27 people were confirmed dead and four remained missing in Galtuer, where Europe's deadliest avalanche of the winter struck Tuesday.

Among the dead were nine Germans, five Dutch, two Danes, and five Austrians.

Yesterday's search centered around two ruined houses where 10 bodies – several of them children – were found, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Twenty-three people had been rescued there, eight of them injured.

The death toll from a later avalanche rose to five with the discovery of three more bodies in Valzur, where a wall of snow flattened 11 houses and two farm compounds on Wednesday. Two people are missing.



Rescue workers gather near a house the roof of which was destroyed by an avalanche in the winter resort of Leukerbad, Switzerland yesterday. (Reuters)

The 4-year-old boy was one of two people pulled alive on Wednesday from under the snow in Valzur, 12 kilometers to the northeast in the same devastated Paznaun Valley.

Thirty-seven helicopters joined in what authorities called the biggest airlift ever in Austria. Austrian rescue choppers were joined by 11 from the German army and police, nine from US Army bases in Germany, and one from Switzerland.

About 1,000 people, many of them Germans and other foreign tourists, were evacuated Wednesday and hundreds yesterday.

Authorities said the names of those flown to safety would be posted on the Internet (http://www.tirol.gv.at/bh-landeck).

Locals are being also offered the chance to leave, though many have decided to stay.

Helicopters returning to the disaster area carried food and supplies and maintenance crews hoped to clear roads to the area today.

Rescuers said there was little chance of finding more people alive.

The Galtuer avalanche is the worst to hit Central Europe this winter, as the region endures its heaviest snowfall in 50 years.

More than 70 people across Europe have died in avalanches this year, and thousands of tourists remain stranded at winter resorts.

Switzerland, which has suffered 25 avalanche deaths this season, was struck by another snowslide yesterday that destroyed several houses in the tourist resort of Leukerbad.

About 30 people were evacuated from a damaged building, and authorities said at least one person was injured.

Rescuers on the French side of the Alps yesterday brought down three stranded French hikers who had built a snow cave after being caught in a blizzard 10 days earlier. They were flown by helicopter to a hospital in Moutiers and pronounced "weak, but safe and sound" after their ordeal on the Arcelin glacier.

The government has not calculated the cost of the damage or loss of earnings. It has promised to spend whatever is necessary on the rescue.

Kosovo rebels, Serb forces defy NATO with new fighting

By ANNE THOMPSON

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) – Fighting between Yugoslav army forces and Kosovo rebels erupted yesterday in defiance of NATO and US warnings that the enemies hold to a cease-fire during a two-week suspension in peace talks.

Explosions and the crackle of small-arms fire sounded from Bukos, about 30 kilometers northwest of the provincial capital Pristina, where Serb tanks and mortars were targeting Kosovo Liberation Army positions near the village.

Clashes in the same area earlier in the week left one Serb civilian dead and five Serb policemen wounded, and monitors with the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe reported at least 15 Yugoslav tanks amassed in the region.

German Gen. Klaus Naumann, head of NATO's panel of military planners, expressed concern over the fighting, as well as what he called a "significant" buildup of Yugoslav forces in and near Kosovo.

The situation in Kosovo is "more than tense. It's almost a powder keg," Naumann said in a radio interview Thursday in the German state of Hesse.

Under the circumstances it is "absolutely necessary that military pressure is kept up" and that NATO maintain the option to stage air strikes against the Serbs, Naumann said.

The fighting came as ethnic Albanian negotiators returned to Kosovo from peace talks in Rambouillet, France, which ended Tuesday without substantial agreement on a political road map for the impoverished, ethnic Albanian majority province in southern Serbia, the dominant republic of Yugoslavia.

While the Serbs held fast against allowing NATO troops to enforce a peace plan – a key ingredient to any deal – ethnic Albanians agreed to sign a tentative agreement when talks resume March 15 after consulting with KLA commanders back in Kosovo.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and US officials said they expected the two sides to refrain from fighting during the pause and not to improve their military positions.

WORLD

in brief

Ocalan's lawyers have first meeting with him

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Two lawyers for jailed rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan met with him yesterday on the prison island where he is being held.

The meeting lasted 20 minutes, the judge was present and questions were restricted to Ocalan's health, another member of the legal team said.

A stone-throwing mob saw off the attorneys on their way to the meeting, shouting slogans against his Kurdish rebel band.

It was the first time lawyers had been allowed to see Ocalan, who was in his 10th day of detention. He has been charged with treason and could face hanging.

Settlement reached in Marcos case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Marcos family and Philippine government have agreed to pay $150 million to settle a lawsuit filed by over 9,500 people who were tortured and abused under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"The result is both historic and fair," plaintiffs' attorney Robert Swift said Wednesday.

US District Judge Manuel Real, who is based in Los Angeles, gave preliminary approval to the settlement Wednesday. A final hearing is scheduled April 14 in Hawaii.

Arizona executes German killer

PHOENIX (Reuters) – A German-born convicted killer was executed by lethal injection on Wednesday following a two-hour delay, after he changed his mind at the last minute about his decision to die in Arizona's gas chamber, state prison officials said.

Officials said Karl LaGrand, whose case sparked high-level protests from the German government, received a lethal injection inside the death house at the state prison complex at Florence, Arizona, about 96 km southeast of Phoenix. The 36-year-old was pronounced dead four minutes later.

Witnesses said LaGrand expressed remorse to the family of a bank manager he and his brother Walter murdered and the bank clerk they stabbed in southern Arizona in 1982. Walter LaGrand, 37, is scheduled to die in the state's gas chamber on March 3.

Had LaGrand been executed by cyanide gas inhalation, as he had originally opted, he would have been the first individual to have died in Arizona's gas chamber since late 1992, when voters approved the exclusive use of lethal injection.

Inmates sentenced to die before 1992 can choose between the gas or injection. None has chosen gas.

Thousands march in East Timor

DILI, Indonesia (AP) – Several thousand pro-independence supporters yesterday marched solemnly in East Timor's capital of Dili with the bodies of two activists slain in a clash.

Violence between rival groups has escalated since Indonesia last month offered to consider independence for the territory if the East Timorese reject an autonomy offer.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, unleashing human rights abuses and a guerrilla war.

In a confrontation Wednesday, separatist activists stabbed to death a soldier and gunmen fired on the crowd, killing two people. Witnesses said pro-Indonesian armed civilians were behind the shootings.

Plane overshoots runway and lands in sea

GENOA (AP) – Four people were killed and two seriously injured when a commuter plane overshot the runway in northern Italy yesterday and crashed in the Mediterranean sea.

Firefighters with diving gear pulled two dead passengers out of the plane as it began to sink. A male passenger and a female flight attendant died soon after they were taken to the hospital, police said.

Eight members of a swimming team were aboard the plane and one of them reportedly opened the aircraft's door to let people out after it landed in the water.

The remaining 24 passengers and three crew members were rescued. All 31 people aboard the plane were believed to be Italians.

Khatami supports moderates in polls

By ANWAR FARUQI

TEHERAN (AP) – President Mohammed Khatami yesterday threw his weight behind some 50 moderate candidates, describing as illegal attempts by hard-liners to disqualify them from running in Iran's first local elections in 20 years.

The elections campaign, which ends with today's voting, was marred by drive-by shootings and street brawls, and became the arena for another power struggle between hard-liners and the liberal president's supporters in the clerical Islamic government.

In a bid to undercut the moderates, a hard-line dominated Central Supervision Board announced this week that 50 candidates – loyal to Khatami – are not qualified to run.

Yesterday, Khatami called the move illegal, saying the only body that can rule on the issue is an arbitration committee he set up last month, state-run Teheran Radio reported.

The committee has already approved the 50 candidates.

"The ruling of the arbitration committee that is overseeing the polls is considered the final word," state-run Teheran radio quoted Khatami as saying.

Since coming to power two years ago, Khatami has tried to ease the social and political restrictions that came with the clergy's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Much to the chagrin of the hard-liners, Khatami's efforts have evoked strong support among many Iranians.

Khatami will receive a further boost if his supporters make a strong showing in the municipal elections, which are being held for the first time since the revolution.

About 330,000 candidates, including 5,000 women, are contesting more than 200,000 posts to manage local government in cities, towns and villages.

Nearly 40 million people are eligible to vote.

On Wednesday, Khatami urged people to vote in big numbers.

"I want them to be on the scene, to assume an active political role in deciding their destiny in the cultural, social, economic and political aspects," he said.

While some Iranians said they wouldn't vote, others were ready to heed Khatami's appeal.

"I will vote, because this is an important step toward a democratic government, and it has been a long time coming in Iran," said Keyvan Ahmadzadeh, a 42-year-old employee of a private business firm.

Violence preceding the polls has highlighted the tensions between the moderates and hard-liners.

A gunman riding a motorcycle opened fire Wednesday on the election headquarters of the moderate Servants of Construction Party in Teheran. Witnesses said windows were shattered but there were no casualties.

Also Wednesday, a group of people burst into a mosque in Karaj town and disrupted a speech by Azam Talekani, a woman who is running on a moderate platform, the Arya daily reported.

It said she escaped with "light injuries." The troublemakers smashed windows.

Supporters of moderate and hard-line candidates also clashed in the same town. Six people suffered knife wounds, the *Jomhuri Islami* daily reported.

Saeed Leylaz, an analyst who writes for several newspapers, said that violence would not stop Khatami's reforms.

"The ideology of Khatami's rival faction is bankrupt. The people want change, and no one can stop them," he said.

Vandals deface memorial to UK teen slain by racists

By ROBERT SEELY

LONDON (AP) – Vandals yesterday hurled white paint over a memorial to a black teenager whose racist killing and the bungled police investigation has provoked a national outpouring of guilt about racism in British society.

In a fresh embarrassment, police announced they had a fake security camera pointed at the engraved stone in a sidewalk in Eltham, south London, where Stephen Lawrence, 17, bled to death in 1993 after being stabbed – allegedly by five white youths – as he waited at a bus stop.

"We cannot anticipate every eventuality and the decision was made to take out the actual camera and replace it with a dummy," Detective Ch.-Supt. Mike Parkes told reporters. He did not say when the real camera was installed in another part of London.

An official inquiry into the killing of Lawrence released Wednesday said London's police force is riddled with racism.

The government pledged an overhaul of anti-discrimination laws and changes in how the streets are policed, and Prime Minister Tony Blair declared, "It is a moment to reflect, to learn and to change."

Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, said the memorial was apparently attacked at about 8 a.m. – but there was no film.

An empty paint tin lay nearby, alongside flowers, and Lawrence's name was obliterated in the attack.

"There are some revolting individuals out there who are capable of carrying out acts like this," said MP Clive Efford, whose parliamentary district covers Eltham, a mainly white, blue-collar area of south London.

Police immediately began house-to-house calls in the street – in contrast to the night of the killing when the inquiry found police made little attempt to pursue the killers.

The memorial has been vandalized several times previously. A white Londoner was jailed for 2 1/2 months last year for a hammer attack on the plaque.

One national newspaper, *The Mirror*, yesterday offered a £50,000 reward for evidence that would help convict the five suspects. Many newspapers carried their pictures.

"Stephen Lawrence's legacy: confronting racist Britain," declared *The Guardian*, a liberal newspaper.

The Daily Mail, a pro-conservative tabloid, said some of the recommendations in the report by retired judge Sir William Macpherson were too extreme, such as making the use of racist language in private a crime.

The report cited delays in arresting the five white youths accused in Lawrence's April 22, 1993 killing, and said the investigation was marred by "institutional racism." The Lawrence family announced yesterday it will demand compensation from the Metropolitan police.

The suspects, brothers Neil and Jamie Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight, and David Norris, all deny involvement in the killing.

Mandela has reservations about Truth Commission's findings

By PAUL HARRIS

CAPE TOWN (AP) – President Nelson Mandela yesterday accused the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of "artificial even-handedness" for condemning not only apartheid but some who fought white rule.

Opening a debate in parliament on the findings of the panel which probed apartheid-era atrocities, Mandela said it appeared the Truth Commission failed to make a moral distinction between those fighting an evil system and those defending one.

In its report, published late last year, the Truth Commission condemned the evils of white rule but also criticized some of the violence of the black liberation movements.

"It was inevitable that a task of such magnitude ... would suffer various limitations," Mandela said of the Truth Commission's work.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, expected to succeed Mandela after mid-year elections, attacked the commission for finding the ruling African National Congress guilty of human rights violations. During apartheid, the ANC had been a banned organization and led the fight against white rule.

Mandela said that even though he had reservations about the report, he accepted it. He praised the efforts of the panel members and its chairman, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

In his speech, Mandela ruled out a blanket amnesty for human rights abusers, noting that only those who fully confess to politically motivated abuses committed during apartheid can receive amnesty from the Truth Commission.

"We are not contemplating a general amnesty under any guise," he said. "Such an approach would go against the grain of the very process that we all agreed upon."

Mandela, who spent 27 years in jail for fighting apartheid, called upon South Africans to face their bloody past and heal racial wounds, saying those who did not accept their history were doomed to repeat it.

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The Sheinbein ruling

The Supreme Court's band of critics would have us believe that, in the words of a British social commentator, "the law is simply expediency wearing a long white dress." Yesterday's decision to block the extradition of alleged murderer Samuel Sheinbein to stand trial in a Maryland court should give these critics pause, while the minority opinion will likely give them more grist for their mill.

If the Supreme Court was simply driven by expediency, it would have upheld District Court Judge Moshe Ravid's decision and provided for Sheinbein's extradition, despite that decision's problematic reasoning. In this case, it was the lower court that might fairly have been accused of judicial activism, and the Supreme Court majority that stood for the plain meaning of law, without twisting it through hoops to achieve a "desirable" outcome.

The lower court astounded observers by inventing a rationale for extradition that was not even suggested by the government: Sheinbein was an Israeli citizen, but he did not have sufficient "connectedness" to Israel for his citizenship to protect him against extradition.

Nowhere in Israeli jurisprudence was there a suggestion that citizenship was a divisible concept: that there were degrees of citizenship based on the undefined and unknown notion of "connectedness." Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, often labeled leader of the "activist" school himself, did not flinch from Judge Ravid's brash reasoning, though he did admit that it was an "innovation."

But even Justice Barak, in his minority opinion, did not argue for letting the decision stand untouched, but rather for allowing the defendant another chance to defend himself within the new context of "connectedness" created by Ravid's ruling.

The majority of the five-justice panel sided not with Justice Barak, but with Justice Theodore Or, who penned a refreshing case for ruling according to what the law is, rather than the judges' conception of what it should be.

After gently suggesting that he "had difficulty escaping the impression" that the lower court ruling had been tainted by concern over the "undesirable implications" of not extraditing Sheinbein, Or wrote, "from the standpoint of proper judicial policy, such difficulties must be addressed through the appropriate path of changing the extradition law in the Knesset, and not by judicial interpretation of existing law."

Or's decision, then, was a correct and courageous one from an Israeli legal standpoint. The desire to ship Sheinbein off for trial in the US, however valid, should not have been pursued by arbitrarily distorting the Israeli concept of citizenship. What is unfortunate, however, is that opportunities were missed to accomplish the government's goal of extraditing Sheinbein – without suspect judicial contortions.

The first opportunity was for either the District or Supreme Court to accept the government's initial argument that Sheinbein was not an Israeli citizen at all, because his father (from whom his Israeli citizenship is derived) left Israel two years before a 1952 law that made all Israeli residents citizens. The strong and reasonable case made by the government on this score was unfortunately rejected by the District Court.

Yesterday's Supreme Court decision states that the justices had advised the government not to try and reopen this aspect of the case.

The second opportunity was squandered by the government and the Knesset: amending the extradition law before a decision was reached in the Supreme Court. The revised extradition law, which passed its first reading this year, would allow Israelis who are not residents to be extradited for crimes committed abroad.

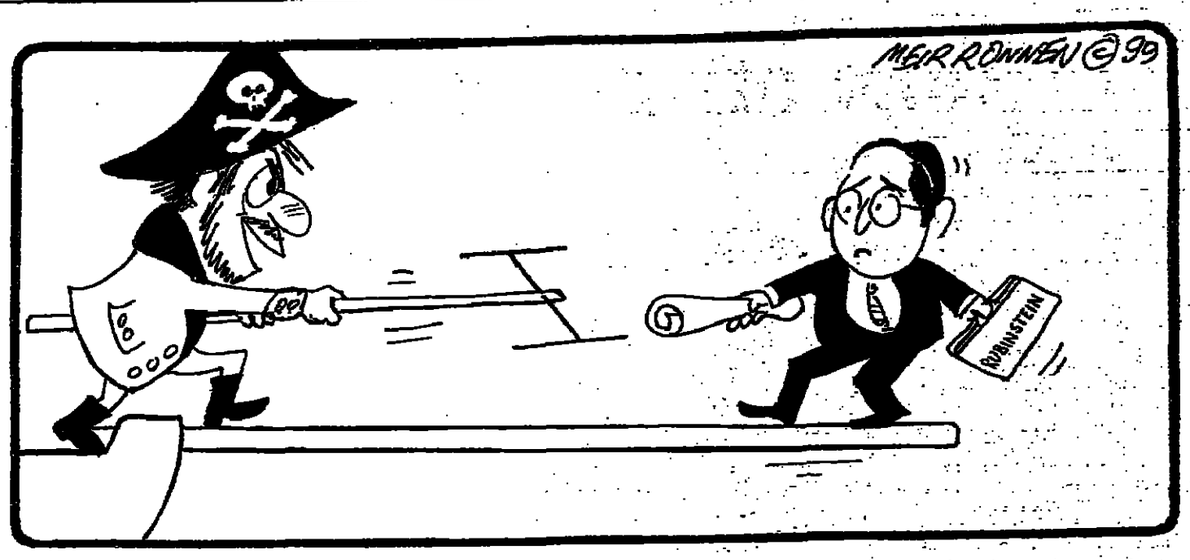
If the government had been as determined in passing this law as it was, for example, in legalizing Arutz 7, the Supreme Court could arguably have ruled to apply the new law in the Sheinbein case.

Regardless, the pending law should be passed as soon as possible to prevent such a case from recurring in the future.

All of this, however, is now water under the bridge. There is no higher court of appeal, and no more time for legal maneuvering. All that is left is to bring Sheinbein to a swift and fair trial in Israel.

Justice Or, regarding the concern over holding the trial so far from the scene of the crime, wrote that it was his understanding that Sheinbein "intended to plead guilty if he stands trial in Israel."

If Sheinbein is indeed guilty, what is important is not where he stands trial, but that he receive a sentence as harsh as he would have in the United States. The Israeli judicial system has demonstrated its integrity and independence in the face of great pressure; now it must demonstrate its ability to deliver justice in the case it has decided to try.



Shabbat shalom

ALEX LUBOTZKY

Every time a clash erupts over Shabbat, a common phenomenon lately, everyone takes part in the battle. With posters plastered on the streets of Bnei Brak and Jerusalem, the haredim are called to fight the "Shabbat War"; secular counter-demonstrators join in a campaign of their own; and the broad middle of society both laughs and cries at the ensuing madness.

The association between Shabbat and war is the utter antithesis of the Shabbat, "the Shabbat of peace."

The uproar over a supermarket's opening in downtown Jerusalem is the most recent display of the complete failure of the status quo. It does not provide answers and does not seek resolution for the conflicts now arising on a regular basis. Discontent with the status quo is the main common denominator shared by a broad public from all camps.

On one side, there is the feeling that the democratic quality of society is being increasingly eroded as a result of political deals and pressures. On the other, the prevailing view is that the Jewish character of Israel is being continually weakened, and that Jewish culture could lose its central place in society.

Following different studies on the topic, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), Meimad, and I initiated the creation of the "New Covenant on Religion and State," which includes agreement on Shabbat based on the following formula: stopping all common productive, industrial, agricultural, and commercial activities, while allowing recreational and cultural activities. The practical implications are clear: Shopping malls and housing fairs will close on Shabbat, while theaters, community centers, and restaurants will be allowed to operate.

All of us, secular and religious alike, agreed that Shabbat should differ from workdays. The main problem was finding the way to formulate this special quality. While we intend to express the Jewish character of the country, we are convinced that it would be a terrible mistake to affect democratic values and the freedom of the individual.

Discontent with the religious status quo is the common denominator shared by a broad public from all camps

These two basic guiding principles must be considered as the grounds for any compromise reached on such a sensitive issue.

Accordingly, this agreement is based not on ideological agreement, but on mutual recognition of the desperate need for tolerance, our overriding devotion to strengthening Jewish identity through education rather than coercive legislation. The religious among us do not provide a permit to desecrate Shabbat, in the same way the secular do not provide moral justification for religious coercion.

In our opinion, the principles of the compromise are a practical necessity in face of the reality and the fact that there are Jews in Israel who, despite having different views and positions, are aware of the importance of emphasizing their common foundations. Indeed, we fear that without a change to the status quo, the possibility of growing religious-secular clashes may split the two sides into two separate Jewish societies, altogether divorced from each other.

AS AN observant Jew, I know that, according to Halacha, there is no difference between desecrating Shabbat in a noisy shopping center or on a cultural visit to a science museum. And despite this, it is important for me to give Shabbat a different character from weekdays in the Jewish state.

Some people may ask why it disturbs religious people if a kibbutz opens a shopping center on Shabbat, since no religious people will be found there. The parallel question is why did the secular public react so strongly a few years ago when it was revealed that, in the haredi town of Emanuel, people did not stand at attention during the siren on Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars.

The common link is the willingness to preserve the unity of the Jewish people. Each of the two camps wants the other to honor and respect the values it holds sacrosanct.

The social aspect not only justifies the closing of businesses on Shabbat, but reinforces the need to allow museums, theaters, and cultural and sports centers to open. For many years, the religious parties fought strongly against opening government cultural institutions, while overlooking or capitulating to the opening of private places of entertainment. This policy was based on an unwillingness to imply that the state is a partner in the desecration of Shabbat.

However, the actual results encouraged the less cultural entertainment, such as pubs and discos, to open on Shabbat, while keeping theaters closed.

Social tastes also justify the principle of the agreement. Opening shopping centers outside towns creates unfair competition which harms urban businesses, particularly the smaller businessmen. If they are not allowed to open on Shabbat, they will lose out. If they are allowed to open, they will have to give up their weekly day of rest.

Only one argument presented to us was very hard to deal with. It has been said that our proposal is much too reasonable and, therefore, has no chance of acceptance. The principles of the agreement will erode interest in this subject, the wisdom goes, from which extremists on both sides of the barricade make their livings.

But we shall sit on the sidelines no more, answering them with courage and impartiality: Enough of your Shabbat wars; give us the chance to build a genuine and united Shabbat, a Shabbat of peace.

Shabbat shalom.

The writer is an MK and a professor of mathematics at the Hebrew University.

Caught in the middle

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Like the vast majority of non-haredi religious Israelis, I did not attend either mass political rally in Jerusalem last week. Beyond a general dislike of the sheep-like behavior exhibited at mass rallies, I was repelled by the extremist messages transmitted by both groups.

At the same time, I admit that some of the claims made in both rallies rang true. For over 50 years, Israeli society has been controlled by a narrow, secular, European elite which forcibly imposed its particular philosophy on powerless immigrants. By using control over jobs, housing, education and so on, it stripped the newcomers of their culture, identity, and dignity. The second generation of these secular Zionists – today's lawyers, judges, teachers, politicians, journalists, and generals – are totally ignorant of the richness of Jewish culture and tradition. Their patronizing and paternalistic attitudes are displayed daily in the schools, talk shows, newspaper columns, and courts.

A quick trip to secular high schools or shopping malls shows a thin veneer of adopted American culture with no values or referents to Israel or the Jewish people. In this ideological vacuum, the secular elite has raised the principle of individual rights to the status of ultimate religious values. Collective identities and the right to choose a lifestyle free from external interference (without traffic and noise on days of rest, and pornography on the newsstands and public broadcasting invading the privacy of individuals) are trampled.

The attacks on the High Court's rulings regarding religion and state reflect the frustration of being subject to decisions made by a small group of individuals with foreign values. Many of the judges who are experts on Anglo-Saxon legal practice know next to nothing about Halacha. Yet these are the same people who are making the the decisions on conversion, membership in religious councils, and military service for yeshiva students.

These decisions will shape the future of Israel and the Jewish people for generations. From this perspective, there is validity in the argument that representative bodies, such as the Knesset and government, should be making these policies, not the courts.

However, the means adopted by the protesters are totally out of synch with the proclaimed ends. The haredi leaders and rabbis claim to be interested primarily in saving the Jewish people from extinction. The evidence indicates that, like other politicians, they are primarily interested in enhancing their own power.

Mass rallies during election season (particularly among parties that do not have primaries) are a good way of getting media attention and rallying the troops. The history of abuse of political power at the hands of the secular elite does not justify brutal abuse of power politics by the haredim, or any other group.

I AM an observant Jew, but Menahem Porush and Ovadia Yosef are not my leaders, and their dictatorial methods are foreign to my understanding of basic Jewish values.

The highly controlled lifestyles of many haredi communities are antithetical to the essence of Jewish philosophy, with its emphasis on the importance of the individual and rejection of hierarchies. By becoming dependent on handouts from the state (obtained via political manipulation), and attempting to impose their norms on others (often via violence and intimidation), they are no better than their secular counterparts.

Furthermore, the rhetoric, and the vicious personal attacks on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, are unacceptable, as are statements by judges that refer to haredim as insects.

But beyond these issues, Israel needs a legitimate and unified legal system. The successes of Zionism in restoring Jewish sovereignty have also created the need for a modern legal system, including a constitutional court.

By undermining the court system, the haredim are cutting off the branch under their own feet. The anarchy that would result from the breakdown of the court system would increase the already high level of conflict in society, and lead to a replay of the civil wars and conflicts of 2,000 years ago. For anyone who values the importance of a Jewish presence in the Land of Israel, anarchy and civil war are clearly outcomes to be avoided.

The bottom line is that instead of cynical manipulation of the masses through political rallies and simplistic slogans, the leaders of both camps need to look beyond short-term tactics. The creation of common institutions, including a court system, that have legitimacy across the spectrum, and are not the result of coercion, will take years. The first step is to recognize the need to shift from confrontation to cooperation in this effort.

Return to the glory days

GILA FINKELSTEIN

In this week's internal National Religious Party election, a slate of candidates reflecting a balance between "hard-line" and "moderate" elements within the party was selected.

It expresses the will of the majority of members of the religious Zionist camp, and it reflects the determination of that camp to win back the voters who have strayed over the past few elections to parties further to the Right.

As an additional, and very significant advance, the NRP reserved the eighth position on its slate (a very realistic slot for the party, when you remember it elected nine members to the Knesset last time around) for a woman.

Every Friday night we recite the praises due to women in *Eishet Hayil*. Last Sunday the NRP, for many years the standard bearer of modern Orthodoxy, decided to back up these words with deeds, when it set aside this slot for a woman candidate, the first time it has specifically done so. Four women competed for that position, and I, despite being the last to enter the race and despite rating no more than an "also running" mention in the news pages of this paper, won the nomination.

For the benefit of those who have never heard of me, I am an English teacher by profession, now head teacher of the Tseitlin Junior High School in Tel Aviv. I was born in Israel 48 years ago, and am married with three children and a grandson. My mother, a seventh-generation Jerusalemite, was also an English teacher. My father was also a school principal.

MY PRIMARY aims in running for office include putting an emphasis on individual welfare and attempting to solve social problems. I will be extremely active in the struggle to stamp out violence in the family and in society in general. I will campaign against social injustice and unemployment and work to help families with a large number of children, students, and young couples. I will strive to strengthen the family unit and to advance the position of the family within the modern Orthodox movement.

I feel that it is very important to establish a forum for the religious youth movement here and abroad. We must establish and widen activities for religious youngsters who graduate from high school, and we must help build new neighborhoods for young religious married couples.

Above all, the NRP must reestablish itself as the bridge between the religious and secular communities. The flag of social justice must also be picked up by the NRP to win back the thousands of voters who have drifted away from the party over the past few elections.

In education, my speciality, there must be more religious schools specializing in science, technology, and art, while at the same time maintaining the high standard of religious study. Each and every school should have a charismatic rabbi. Universities should have special departments to instruct teachers in methods of dealing with students who are disillusioned with religion, to attempt to offer them alternatives to leaving.

The most important point is that the NRP must now work to re-unite the religious Zionist movement behind this slate of candidates; containing, as it does, party members from all areas of the party, Left, Right, young, old, men, and, most importantly now, women.

If we all work extremely hard toward this common goal and stand behind this list, united and as one person, maybe not just nine but even more members can be elected so that the party can return to the glory days of Zevulun Hammer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VOTING AT THE UN

Sir, - Your editorial "Israel-bashing at the UN" (February 12) captured the outrage of the UN General Assembly's decision to apply the Geneva Convention, inspired by fresh memories of the horrors of World War II, to the case of Israeli condominium construction in Jerusalem.

As you point out, this distortion is made worse by the fact that the Convention never convened for a single other conflict in its 50-year history. You also correctly note that a Convention designed to protect civilians in time of war is utterly irrelevant to Israel's case, in which 97% of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza now live under Palestinian rule.

However, your suggestion that the UN briefly improved its stance in the aftermath of the Oslo Accords is not borne out by the actual voting record of the General Assembly during that period. Indeed, only three months after the signing of the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed resolutions that condemned Israel as before.

Moreover, these resolutions prejudged issues like settlements, borders and Jerusalem, that were now supposed to be dealt with only in the framework of permanent status negotiations. Generally, only Israel and the US opposed these one-sided resolutions, while majorities of approximately 150 countries voted for them. Similarly, this last resolution of the Emergency Special Session passed by a majority of 115-2.

It is our hope that UN member states will act responsibly to protect international humanitarian law from further politicization. Moreover, it is imperative that member states do not lend their support to PLO initiatives at the UN that violate Palestinian commitments under the Oslo process to resolve differences bilaterally with Israel.

AMBASSADOR DORE GOLD
Permanent UN Representative.

New York.

WEMBLEY REUNION

Sir, - Are there any readers out there who lived in Wembley (England) between the years 1940-1970?

We are planning a reunion picnic with ex-Wembleys and their families during Pessah week. We are in touch with many old friends who grew up with us but would like to extend our mailing list.

Please contact one of the undersigned.

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HAND IN HAND

Sir, – Your editorial "Beyond the pale" (February 11) is largely evenhanded in presenting the issues disturbing secular-religious relations. However, it commits a serious error by stating that "Jewish law and democratic ideals do not always go hand in hand."

The Jewish people are singularly characterized as the People of the Book which is primarily a book of laws governing every aspect of individual and communal existence. Jewish law emphatically teaches that everyone is equal before the law, with no exceptions. No individual has greater freedom than one living according to Jewish law. These laws are administered by the most learned sages of each generation. Their function is to interpret the application of the law to the unique and evolving needs of the people. The sages are bound by the Jewish laws and may not formulate entirely new laws or radically alter existing laws because the laws in the book are eternal and immutable.

On the other hand, democracy, although the best form of government existing today, is flawed by the fact that the law is governed by popularly elected persons, not necessarily of the highest moral and intellectual caliber. The many problems which plague democracy today are clear evidence of the many imperfections in democracy.

Can Jewish law and democracy go hand in hand? The religious kibbutzim are an example of a community which is governed by the highest democratic principles, totally integrated with living by Jewish law.

DR. CARL LAMPNER

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On February 26, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Va'ad Leumi, the National Council, had accepted proposals regulating labor relations of the Jewish community, including fair wages, accident and sick insurance, compensation for dismissals, and an assurance of adequate productivity. Arbitration was to become an integral part of labor disputes.

25 years ago: On February 26, 1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the last 56 Egyptian POWs were repatriated. Israel and Egypt were both engaged in the fifth and the last phase of their military disengagement, scheduled to be completed on March 5, 1974.

Alexander Zvielli

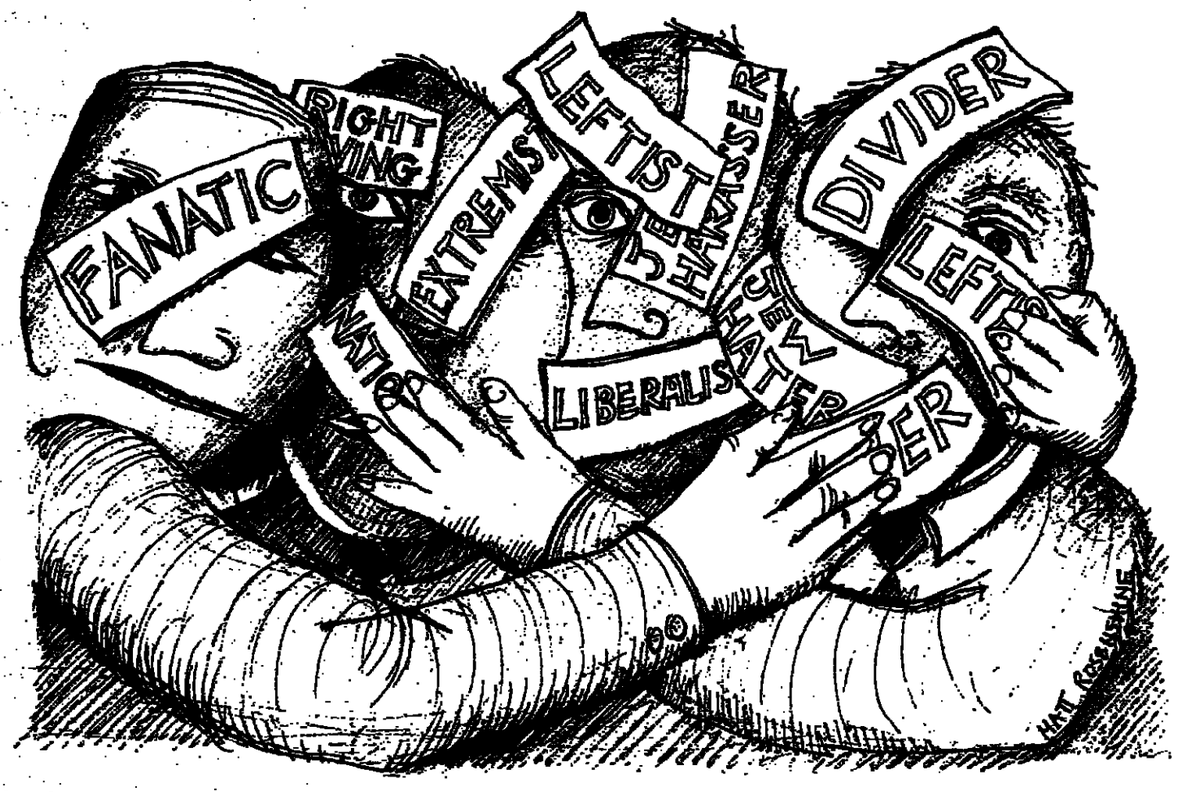


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Take off the campaign labels

NAOMI CHAZAN



Now that the internal party elections are almost over, the time has come to pay closer attention to the unfolding election campaign. Its first steps have been arid, vacuous, worrisome, and potentially destructive.

The 1999 campaign to date is most notable for its epithets, verbal assaults, and harangues, rather than for its content. Should this pattern – which insults both the sensibilities and intelligence of most Israelis – continue, then the election may be determined by considerations which have very little to do with any of the profound issues at hand.

The character of the campaign has been molded by an over-reliance on image construction and destruction. Through the widespread use of the "label-stigmatize" technique, adversaries are first categorized and then soundly debunked.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, a proven master of this craft, has set the tone. He first accused each one of his opponents of being a "leftist" (starting with Ehud Barak, Ronni Milo, and Dan Meridor, and subsequently moving on to Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Yitzhak Mordechai), then proceeded to engage in left-bashing. In return, he has been dubbed "a right-wing extremist" and his supporters "fanatics." Other common labels are "Jew-haters" and "Jew-harassers" (aimed mostly at Meretz and judges) or, in contrast, "fundamentalists" or "coffer-robbers" (the haredim and their rabbis).

The Likud calls its rivals "dividers" ("they will divide everything – the people, the country, Jerusalem, the Jewish world). And the opposition persists in terming the parties in the government "destructive" (everything has been destroyed in the past three years – the peace process, the economy, Israeli society, the rule of law).

Labeling is an effective, if at times perverse, form of stigmatization. Political labels are, by their very nature, value-laden. To categorize and then tag specific lists or candidates is akin to declaring them lacking any moral worth. By extension, those who are not part of a group label are depicted as the repository of all virtue. If Left is bad, then Right is ethical; if extremism is beneath contempt, then only liberalism is normatively just.

Responses to being labeled, and hence denigrated, vary. The most instinctive and teasing reaction has been to label those who label you, thus contributing to the shaping of a campaign which has become first and foremost a battle of vying images.

Another common, if rather awkward, response is denial. Disclaimers of "leftist" identifications abound, as have the number of pilgrimages to religious figures designed to shed agnostic appellations. But protestations, however genuine, are defensive by definition, frequently either apologetic, unconvincing, or radiating weakness.

A more elegant answer has recently emerged: embracing the label, while stripping it of its negative connotations. Yossi Beilin's glorification of the Left is but one example, as is Netanyahu's defense of "the nationalist camp."

None of these responses, however, escapes the trap imposed by this mode: Labels and counter-labels divert attention from issues. That is what their purveyors intend. They turn a campaign away from its essential purpose: the need to make a decision between complex alternatives.

INDEED, the imaging so rampant in this campaign has affected the way parties and candidates have presented choices to the voters. There is by now an alarming tendency to define the options open to the electorate in starkly dichotomous terms. The choice is between those who respect religion and those who purportedly abhor it, between peacemaking and warmongering, between security and defeatism, between upholding the court system and theocracy, between social conscience and fiscal responsibility.

The designation of options in either/or terms lacks subtlety and distorts reality. It does, however, serve the interests of the major parties, since by entrenching the perception of the existence of two large camps, it gives a clear advantage to those who lay claim to leadership on each side. The results of the employment of this binary mode of discourse are ominous. Not only are the diversity of opinions and the multiplicity of parties dismissed, but an enormous chasm is created that even the emergence of the so-called Center cannot bridge.

In the world of virtual politics, masters of appearances reign supreme, while key issues receive short shrift

Purposeful labeling and polarization have set the stage for an emotive negative campaign predicated on instilling fear. Part of this negativism is cast in personal terms. Recent ads consistently characterize Netanyahu as a liar who is though dangerous by his closest associates. Barak is repeatedly termed weak and mistake-prone. Mordechai is viewed as indecisive and rudderless, Begin as a disconnected ideologue.

A more pernicious facet of this negativism is social, aimed at making entire sectors afraid of the consequences of the victory of the other. This week the Likud published an election ad accusing Barak and Labor of "insulting Sephardim, inciting against the religious, and attacking settlers." Almost every Sephardi, Orthodox, or settler is meant to believe that if Labor wins, they will be made to suffer interminably, alongside Ethiopian Jews and women, whose candidates did not fare well in the primaries.

In a similar vein, the notion that "Israel is not Teheran" is intended to truly scare those who are concerned about the growing political influence of religious parties. And so it goes: Labor discriminates against immigrants; the Likud rejects Arab-Israelis; and Meretz is populated by infidels.

Negative campaigns are not foreign to Israel. Netanyahu's 1996 victory, based on the charge that "Peres will divide Jerusalem," is a paradigmatic example. Its repetition in 1999 will be nothing short of calamitous. Once again, voters will cast their ballots more out of a survival instinct, fully aware of what they fear, while remaining almost totally ignorant of what the candidates they have selected stand for, or what they intend to do.

These kinds of images, choices, and emotions are best transmitted via the electronic media. The present campaign has focused obsessively on television, an arena where sound-bites replace policy discussions and verbal brawls substitute for debates. Campaigning in this setting is further debased as "star politics" take over: The screen test becomes more important than the leadership test. In the world of virtual politics, masters of appearances reign supreme, while key issues receive short shrift.

The 1999 campaign is in danger of deteriorating into a vituperative exchange lacking both appeal and substance. If the trend established in recent weeks persists, the sectarian, divisive, crisis-prone politics of recent years will continue unabated. Those concerned with finding leaders and parties capable of tackling the complex problems facing us today must insist on altering the agenda and the tone of the campaign immediately. Saving the campaign is an essential first step to saving the country.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Hanan's last dance

The one-issue settler failed to fathom the changing meaning of Israeli pioneering

Though 25 years have since elapsed, I still recall in detail – whenever crossing the plaza in front of Jerusalem's Gerard Behar Center – my sister's surreal wedding.

In the pre-globalized Israel of those distant days, the dinky theater on Rehov Bezalel had yet to bear a French philanthropist's name and – like what passed for the seat of culture in any kibbutz, moshav, or kolkhoz – was simply known as the People's House, or Beit Ha'am.

Beit Ha'am was the place where most things happened. In Beit Ha'am's main hall, when we were still in diapers, they tried Adolf Eichmann; by second grade, we began borrowing such literary masterpieces as *Tukides* (the parrot), *Chipopo* (the ape), and *Danny Din* (the invisible kid) from its brightly-lit library; and soon enough my bar mitzva was held in Beit Ha'am's faceless, grayish, one-story step-brother next door – Beit Hahayal (Veterans' House, shall we say?) – which was later razed along with the charm, modesty, and innocence that once were the Jewish state's hallmark.

The wedding fell almost exactly on the cease-fire which ended the Yom Kippur War. Among the hundreds of invitees who made it to Beit Hahayal that evening, our family's well-tailored British branch found itself mingling with dusty, unshaven, untidily uniformed and acidly sweating soldiers who – like the groom – only barely managed to leave the front for hardly a 48-hour furlough.

As if to defy the waning moments of pre-'73 Israel's overconfidence, the crowd at hand – evidently badly in need of catharsis after some dreadful combat experiences – burst out in such exuberant dance, song, and laughter that it even ignored a sudden power outage.

Beside the uniforms, only two things echoed the distant battlefields where thousands of young Israelis had just lost their lives: the hugs of 20-somethings upon meeting friends they had not seen since before Yom Kippur, and a visibly wounded, blue-eyed, straight-chinned, thickly cowlicked man dancing dreamily, apparently oblivious to the fact that his left arm and shoulder were covered by a cumbersome bandage after having absorbed shrapnel from an artillery shell in the Sinai.

His name was Hanan Porat.

MOST OF those at hand had yet to know the talmudic genius whose three politically formative experiences were his evacuation, at age three, from his native Kibbutz Kfar Etzion on the eve of its defenders' massacre by a Palestinian mob; his participation 19 years later as a paratrooper in the conquest of Jerusalem; and his return, the following year, to the very Judean hill from which he had been uprooted as a child and where he lives until today.

However, within a few months every politician, journalist, and TV viewer would get to know that counter-atheist pioneer for whom earth plowing, combat service, Zionist literature and Hebrew poetry naturally blended with biblical verses, rabbinic responsa, Talmud pages, and mishnaic sages.

Indeed, in a deeply perplexed, dispirited, and disillusioned post-'73 Israel, Porat offered a kind of personal charisma, messianic faith, and youthful energy that would mesmerize former farmer-soldiers like poet Haim Guri, author Moshe Shamir, and politicians Moshe Dayan, Yigal Allon, and Yisrael Galili; to them, Porat personified a magical combination of their ancestors' abandoned heritage and their own lost youth.

Armed with such political supporters, Porat and his colleagues set out to launch a revolution whereby all accessible parts of the promised land would be settled by all walks of Israeli society, which, according to their theology, "deep inside" sought a Greater Israel and were destined to some day re-embrace God.

A quarter-of-a-century later, that revolution, while having clearly accomplished much more than anyone dared predict in 1973, has now arrived at an impasse, with Porat's effective dismissal this week by his own flesh and blood in the National Religious Party.

Well more than 100 settlements are living testimony that the old conventional wisdom, that Porat et al lacked troops, practicality, and staying power, reflected mainly the jealousy of a declining elite which had lost its power to generate charisma, wave flags, capture imagination, and mobilize masses.

Still, the fact that some 97 percent of Israeli Jews did not go to live in the territories, and that those who did go were – and remain – much more frequently as religious and Ashkenazi as Porat himself than Israelis are within the Green Line, testifies equally powerfully that reality defied Porat's grander designs.

Where did he fail?

For one thing, Porat was a one-issue politician, who seldom took the lead on major non-settlement issues, including on such religious problems as haredi military service or non-Orthodox conversions, not to mention taxation, privatization, or health care.

Secondly, Porat was a media adviser's nightmare, using an elaborate Hebrew that not even all his natural followers shared, and demonstrating a bewildering unawareness of camera power when, on the day of the Goldstein massacre in Hebron, he failed to switch in time from that fateful Purim day's dawn of laughter to its dusk of tears.

Finally, Porat missed out on the zeitgeist, refusing to concede that most people will shun nationalism unless fueled by deep humiliation – like that seeded in him as a toddler – or when feeling exceptionally threatened, the way we did in '67 and '73.

And so, while he continued to understand pioneering as setting up yet another 20-cottage Jewish neighborhood in the midst of hostile Arabs, Israeli pioneering role models gave way to hi-tech inventors conquering Wall Street, property developers building islands in the Mediterranean, or textile entrepreneurs setting up shop in Jordan.

Now, as if to sum it all up, the NRP pretty much told an arguably verbose, antiquated, and provincial Porat that, in an age of sound bites, websites, and cybercash, he had become an anachronism – like the old Beit Ha'am. While it's hard to disagree with them, those of us who sometimes miss Beit Ha'am, will also miss Hanan.

Topsy-turvy

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

On Purim, we celebrate our deliverance from Haman's clutches with a series of striking reversals from our normal behavior. Models of sobriety, for instance, can be found drinking like longshoremen, albeit with far different results. (I have seen plenty of ridiculous Purim drunks, but never a mean one.)

Among great Torah scholars, one can witness the process of "the wine enters and secrets come out" – the secrets of Torah. Levels of understanding they do not speak of publicly the rest of the year are revealed on Purim. A friend once described a teacher of ours on Purim: "When you come to his house the rest of the year, he asks you how you are and then starts speaking words of Torah. On Purim, he forgets to ask you how you are."

Jews generally do not give full vent to their laughter. That laughter is reserved for a future time: "*Then* will our mouths be filled with laughter," says the Psalmist.

On Purim, however, all such restraints are removed. Rabbi Elhanon Wasserman, one of the leaders of pre-war European Jewry, who returned from the safety of America to be martyred together with his students in the Kovno ghetto, never smiled during the year. Yet he laughed so hard during the Purimspiel that he would beg the performers to stop.

The transformation on Purim of people of the most serious mien can be quite startling.

If I had to pinpoint a single common characteristic of the community of *bnei Torah* among whom I live, I would say it is the seriousness with which they approach life. Looking around shul on a Shabbat morning, there is no one I can imagine as a college drinking buddy. These are people who value every minute and push away sleep to extract the most out of their time. Words too are hoarded. Speaking to the most elevated among them, one can almost feel each word being measured out with care.

The exposure to people possessing such gravitas is what first draws most *ba'alei teshuva* to a Torah life: They are attracted by a vision of life filled with meaning and purpose – a life in which each moment is an opportunity to elevate oneself and the world. No one wants to accept life as just a process of marking time and stimulating the nerve endings. Judaism presents a world in which each action and word is imbued with cosmic significance, and the religious community provides models of those who live life accordingly.

On Purim, we too make fun, but our target is those who deny the importance of life

The antithesis to the Jewish attitude to life is that of the scoffer, who belittles and denigrates everything and everyone. He trivializes life and denies it any ultimate meaning. "Don't bother to reprove the scoffer," Proverbs teaches, for a person who takes nothing seriously is not one who can change and grow.

OUR merrymaking on Purim is far removed from this scoffing. We too make fun, but our target is those who deny the importance of life. We thereby affirm life. Our scoffing is directed at Haman and his ancestor Amalek and Amalek's grandfather Esau, the rabbinic paradigms for all those who deny life any significance.

Esau recognized nothing beyond the here and now: "And he ate and drank and got up and went and despised the birthright." The divine service that went with the birthright was contemptible in Esau's eyes. He recognized no connection to anything outside of himself and valued nothing beside the immediate satisfaction of his animal needs.

After having wrestled with the guardian angel of Esau, Jacob asks the angel his name. "Why do you ask my name?" the angel replies. The angel was not just following the time-honored Jewish custom of answering a question with a question. He was saying, "I have no name, no essence; I'm that which can never withstand any probing. I represent a world where all values are transitory, provisional, unrooted in any transcendent reality."

A little girl asks her mother what she should want to be when she grows up, and her mother tells her, "To be pretty and rich and popular." But when the daughter asks why she should want to be any of these things, her mother can do no more than ridicule her question on the grounds that everybody wants these things.

Like the angel of Esau, the mother resists any deeper inquiry. Her inability to point to any standard other than popular opinion mimics the inability of the angel of Esau to define himself.

Never was this world's connection to God so clear as in the Exodus from Egypt. The nations all trembled in awe of the Jewish people, and none came forward to do battle. Except for Amalek.

Amalek thrust the Jewish people back into the realm of history, removed from any transcendental context. Prior to Amalek's attack, no nation even conceived the possibility of waging war against the Jews – the miracles in Egypt made God's protection too clear. Amalek was routed, but the awe was gone. Now other nations could attribute Amalek's defeat to a strategic error of some kind, and devise their own superior strategies.

Amalek is thus compared to one who jumps into a scalding bath and cools it for all those who follow. He cooled off awareness of God, awareness of a world of meaning and purpose.

When the rest of the created world reaches its final fulfillment, Amalek is destined for destruction. Because he denies all purpose and meaning in life, he has no potential that can be realized.

When that final revelation occurs and all the Hamans and Amaleks are destroyed forever, we will recognize our laughter on Purim as having foreshadowed the future laughter of which King David speaks.

A Greek-Turkish-Kurdish salad

ALON LIEL

A senior Turkish political figure approached me a few days ago, soon after the Kurdish attack on our consulate in Berlin, with the following suggestion-request: "I hope Israel is not going to apologize to the PKK."

When I asked if we could communicate our message to the non-PKK Kurdish leadership in Europe, the answer was: "It's all the same."

Turkey is not going to like the Israeli-Kurdish dialogue that started in Europe last week, as a result of the Berlin incident.

Are we on the verge of damaging the extremely important relationship built between Israel and Turkey over the past decade? Or can we still find the correct prescription that will enable delicate maneuvering inside the Greek-Turkish-Kurdish salad.

This time it is impossible to say we did not know. The data was all in front of us. We knew the advantages: that Turkey is an important Moslem country with a strong army, a promising economy, and a common border with some of our worst enemies (obviously an intelligence advantage).

We also knew the disadvantages: that Turkey is entangled in several serious regional rivalries (Greece, Cyprus, Syria, Kurds), is competing for the regional leadership position with Egypt and Iran, and that its relations with Europe are on shaky grounds, mainly due to accusations regarding human rights violations.

We knew everything, but the architect of the relations, our defense establishment, was fascinated by the advantages, while underestimating the disadvantages. Our defense establishment had difficulty (not for the first time) objectively analyzing a complicated regional puzzle because of a temporary blur suffered any time a substantial sum of money flows into the pockets of our military industries.

Turkey and Israel have sensed a certain euphoria as a result of their improved ties. Ankara was pleased with the military and technological strength of her new ally, Jerusalem with the fact that its new Moslem friend constantly ignored the protests of its Arab neighbors. Turkey didn't hide its satisfaction regarding the growing Greek-Cypriot-Kurdish worries nor did Israel, regarding the increased Syrian-Egyptian-Iranian worries.

IT IS definitely not too late for relations to be set on the right track. It is possible, as well as necessary, to build long-term healthy relations with Turkey. This is even a national goal. However, the rules of the game have to be made clearer.

Ankara has to release us from her regional troubles, as much as we should not expect Turkey to share our Middle Eastern problems. Ankara should not expect us to be the enemies of the Greeks, Cypriots, Kurds, or Armenians, and we should not demand the ending of Turkey's relations with Iraq, Iran, or Libya. Improved relations between Israel and Turkey should reduce the regional cycle of rivalries and hostilities instead of expanding them.

The urgent issue to be addressed is our recent Kurdish problem as a result of the Berlin incident. It seems there is only one possible formula if we want to maintain our friendship with Turkey: Kurds – yes, PKK – no. We have been to this movie several times in the past: Palestinians – yes, PLO – no; blacks (in South Africa) – yes, ANC – no. In the modern world, everybody has watched this hypocritical movie and often enjoyed it.

Turkey, for its part, is facing an important test in its relations with the West. PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan's trial, which will start in six weeks (on the verge of Turkey's general elections to be held on the April 18), and especially the verdict and its implementation, will determine Turkey's location on the diplomatic globe. If Ocalan is executed, it could mark the lowest ebb in Turkey's relations with Europe and might pose a major dilemma for Israel.

The terror operations of Yasser Arafat, George Habash, Nayef Hawatmeh, and Ahmed Jibril were at least as cruel as Ocalan's terrorism. Not one of these Palestinian murderers, including the more ruthless among them, was executed. If Turkey decides to execute Ocalan, it will have to convince the Western world that he belongs in the league of Adolf Eichmann, not in that of George Habash.

Even if Turkey manages to do so, it will still have to seriously consider whether it wants to be wise as well as right.

The writer was Israel's charge d'affairs in Turkey.

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Today's shekel



In brief

Ministry seeks investor for Kfar Sava-TA rail line

The National Infrastructure Ministry yesterday presented the government's proposals seeking a private investor for the Tel Aviv-Kfar Sava rail line, and authorizing the Cross Israel Highway Company to plan and issue tenders for the rail projects. The proposals follow the decision of a ministry committee which chose the Kfar Sava line as the first where the private sector would build and operate a railroad. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Indigo loss narrows, revenues up 38%

Printing equipment manufacturer Indigo yesterday reported that net loss for 1998 has narrowed 88.7 percent to $5.1 million from $45.1m. in 1997. At the same time sales rose 38% to $147.4m. from $106.9m. Net loss for the fourth quarter fell to $1.8m. from $5.9m., while revenues increased 23% to $42.7m. from $34.7m.

Benny Landa, Indigo's chairman and CEO, expressed satisfaction with the results, saying that the company's financial performance continues to improve. He added that the increase in sales reflects the market's positive response to Indigo's products. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Integrated index up 0.2%

The Bank of Israel's integrated index for examining the state of the economy rose last month by 0.2%, the central bank said yesterday. Retail sales in the big franchises rose 5.5%, while the import index fell 0.7%, largely due to the customs strike. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Piotrkowsky to chair Cellcom board

First International Bank managing director Shlomo Piotrkowsky was named chairman of Cellcom's board of directors yesterday, replacing Discount Investments chairman Dov Tadmor, who headed the cellular phone company's board for four-and-a-half years. Piotrkowsky has served as a board member and chairman of its finance committee since Cellcom was founded. Company president and CEO Ya'acov Pery praised Tadmor for his contributions to making Cellcom so successful. *Judy Siegel*

Bank Hapoalim offers stakes in Ampal, Hapoalim Invest.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank Hapoalim has approached the Steinmetz family in an attempt to sell its 25 percent stake in Ampal-American Israel Corporation, the bank said yesterday.

In a separate announcement, it announced that it intends to sell part of its 21% holding in Poalim Investments. The bank refused to provide more details on both deals.

Both offers are part of the bank's attempt to comply with the Bank Licensing Law's requirement to further reduce the commercial banks' holdings in non-banking companies by the end of the year to no more than 20% from the current 25% cap.

In May 1996, the Steinmetz family acquired a controlling stake in Ampal from Bank Hapoalim and has gradually increased its holdings in the investment firm to 46.2%.

Based on the closing price of Ampal's share in New York, the market value of the company is some $95 million, which is substantially lower then its equity capital of $160m. Bank Hapoalim's stake in Ampal is therefore worth at least $23.75m. It can be assumed, however, that the bank will ask for a premium of at least 20%.

The negotiations for the sale of Poalim Investments are being held with investment company Dovrat Shrem & Co., which holds a 45.1% controlling stake, which was acquired from Bank Hapoalim in three year ago.

Poalim Investments is traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, based on company value of some $170m., valuing the bank's stake at some $36m. The deal is expected to close at a higher price.

Avigdor Kelner, Poalim Investments' chairman and CEO, said that Dovrat Shrem is currently considering Hapoalim's offer. He added that the bank has no intention to sell all its holdings.

Kelner said that so far only preliminary negotiations have been held and that the bank hasn't decided which part of the company will be sold. He added that a deal can be reached within three weeks.

Poalim Investments has a diversified portfolio in industry, communications, trade, services, insurance, real estate, and financial services.

Ampal and its subsidiaries acquire interests in businesses here or ones which are Israel-related. The company has diversified interests in hi-tech and communications, real estate, finance, energy distribution, basic industries, and others.

Last month, the firm signed a deal with Koor Tourism and international hotel chain ITT Sheraton to sell its Radisson Moriah hotel chain.

Sheetrit seeks to execute job-creation plan

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, and Minister without Portfolio Shaul Amor yesterday discussed the government's approved, NIS 250 million program for the creation of new jobs, the Treasury said yesterday.

Sheetrit said after the meeting that fighting unemployment is among his major objectives in his new job and that the gist of the plan should be an acceleration of state-funded retraining programs for 35,000 job seekers. "Allocating resources for education and professional training is the best and wisest investment in the long term," he said.

Sheetrit is convinced that such human-capital investment will ultimately translate also into durable growth, beside helping restore dignity to the unemployed.

The Knesset Finance Committee recently approved the Treasury's request for a special allocation from its dedicated reserves to provide training programs for 30,000 people a year, beside additional budgets, which had already been earmarked last year, for the retraining of an additional 5,000 people through the Education and Labor ministries.

The government also intends to expand its plans for subsidized transportation from heavy areas of unemployment to employment centers.

The government is also seeking to decrease the number of foreign workers by various means, including expelling ones illegally staying here, fining their employers, and taxing the contractors who import them.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut said it will delay a few days the general strike it is planning, to allow Sheetrit to study the wage agreement issues, as the Treasury and the unions brace for their annual showdown on salary adjustments.

Cisco VP scouts for acquisitions

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Data communications company Cisco Systems is actively looking to invest in Israeli companies in the fields of wireless communications, voiceover Internet Protocol and satellite technology, Mike Volpi, Cisco's VP of business development announced yesterday.

Volpi, who is here on a fact-finding trip, said the Internet networking specialist giant is looking to make a series of investments, acquisitions and partnerships with Israeli firms of all sizes, and is examining start-ups in many different fields.

"We are here to try to continue building a bridge between Cisco and the companies developing new technologies in Israel," said Volpi.

Cisco, which has an annual turnover of $10 billion, plans to move heavily into the hot new field of data and voice convergence in the coming years. "We want to become one of the pre-eminent players on the data and voice market," said Volpi.

To do so the company needs to increase rapidly its expertise in communication technologies, an area in which Israel excels. "Cisco's strategy is to look inwards to see what we are missing. Our competitor Lucent has a rich background in telephony but we don't. We are looking for technologies that will allow us to bridge the gap between traditional environments and the new world environment."

He also highlighted the area of wireless communications, an area in which Cisco is weak, as being of particular interest to the company.

"The activity of business development is a long-standing tradition at Cisco," Volpi said. "We understand that we can't develop all these technologies ourselves so we made it part of our business processes early on. Compared to our competitors we are still small. We have to use the creativity of other people in the industry to make us, and them, successful."

Though deals are on the horizon, Volpi said he has nothing specific to announce. "We have the resources to invest a lot and are looking for opportunities that fit," he said.

Cisco, which spends about $1 billion on R&D annually, first set up operations in Israel four and a half years ago and since then has hired 80 employees and invested some $70 million. Included in this sum is the purchase last May of Israeli company Class Data Systems, a specialist in quality of service software, for some $50m. in a share swap deal. The company now acts as part of Cisco Israel.

Cisco also has extensive cooperation agreements with VocalTec and BreezeCOM and Volpi said he hoped to extend these in the future.



Olivetti revamps offer for Telecom Italia

Olivetti CEO Roberto Colanino is mobbed by journalists as he leaves the company's headquarters in Milan yesterday, after a meeting of the board of directors. Olivetti later announced a revamped initial takeover offer for Telecom Italia, keeping the final value of the offer at EUR 52.55 billion, the largest takeover offer in Europe. (AP)

Iran, Germany near debt restructuring deal

By DOUGLAS BUSVINE

BONN (Reuters) – Talks on making it easier for Iran to service billions of marks in debts to Germany in the wake of a world oil price slump have reached an advanced stage, German officials said yesterday.

Details of the talks were sketchy, but an official at the Ausfuhrkreditanstalt (AKA) in Frankfurt, which represents 40 lender banks, said a restructuring could be announced in March.

"We haven't reached a stage where we can announce anything yet," the official said. "But there is a lot of coming and going. Perhaps you will know more at the end of March."

The official added that efforts were under way to tie Iran's commercial and sovereign debts "into a single package."

A spokeswoman for the German Economics Ministry, which is responsible for handling sovereign debt, confirmed talks with Iran were going on. She declined to comment in detail.

German sources said last December that a new $1 billion commercial credit line to Iran was being discussed as part of $3b. in bridging loans Teheran was seeking to enable it to service foreign debt repayments due in March.

With oil prices languishing around $11 a barrel Iran, previously a reliable debt servicer, has started missing debt payments.

Germany is Iran's leading trading partner in the West, but bilateral trade has slumped, with Iranian exports to Germany – mainly oil – falling a third in the first 11 months of last year to just DM 780 million ($440 million).

EU to rich powers: Nix duties for world's poor

By ROBERT EVANS

GENEVA (Reuters) – The European Union yesterday called on other big trading powers and richer emerging economies to follow its lead and remove all tariffs on goods from the world's poorest countries by the end of the year.

In a presentation to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Brussels also insisted that the next round of global trade negotiations, to be launched in December, should be in the form of a single package – a concept long opposed by the US.

The EU paper called for the round to include a wide-ranging effort to slash tariffs on industrial goods and talks on setting rules for cross-border investment and national competition policies alongside others on farm trade and services.

But it lent no support to a US effort to revive the controversial issue of linking trade rules to labor conditions – an idea fiercely resisted by developing countries.

The paper, read to an informal session of the WTO's ruling General Council by a senior Brussels official, said 99 percent of EU imports from the 48 LDCs (least-developed countries), now entered the 15-nation EU duty free.

"We call on other developed countries to commit themselves to provide similar tariff free treatment not later than the Third Ministerial Meeting," it said, referring to a WTO gathering set for Seattle from November 29–December 3.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

ANTHONY M. WEIKEL, et al., Plaintiffs
v.
TOWER SEMICONDUCTOR LTD., et al., Defendants.

Master File No. 2:96cv03711 (AJL)

SUMMARY NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT CLASS ACTION

TO: ALL PERSONS WHO PURCHASED TOWER SEMICONDUCTOR LTD. ("TOWER") ORDINARY SHARES OR CALL OPTIONS DURING THE TIME PERIOD FROM MAY 25, 1995 THROUGH JUNE 10, 1996, INCLUSIVE (THE "CLASS")

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Order of the Court dated January 29, 1999, that a settlement for $16,275,000 has been proposed in the above-captioned certified class action. A hearing will be held before the Honorable Alfred J. Lechner, Jr. at the United States District Court, M.L.King, Jr. Federal Building & Courthouse, 50 Walnut Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101-0999, at 9:00 a.m., on May 17, 1999 to determine whether the proposed settlement should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable and adequate, and to consider the application of Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CLASS DESCRIBED ABOVE, YOUR RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO SHARE IN THE SETTLEMENT FUND. If you have not yet received the full printed Notice Of Proposed Settlement Of Class Action, Hearing On Proposed Settlement And Attorneys' Fee Petition, And Notice Of Right To Share In Settlement Fund and a Proof Of Claim form, you may obtain copies of these documents by identifying yourself as a member of the Class and by calling or writing to:

Claims Administrator
WEIKEL v. TOWER SEMICONDUCTOR LTD.
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
Post Office Box 5100
Larkspur, CA 94977-5100
Telephone (415) 461-0410

Inquiries, other than requests for the forms of Notice and Proof of Claim, may be made to the Chair of Plaintiffs' Lead Counsel Executive Committee:

Steven G. Schulman, Esq.
MILBERG WEISS BERSHAD HYNES & LERACH LLP
One Pennsylvania Plaza
New York, NY 10119
(212) 594-5300

To participate in the Settlement, you must file a Proof of Claim no later than June 11, 1999. IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER AND DO NOT FILE A PROPER PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT SHARE IN THE SETTLEMENT BUT YOU WILL BE BOUND BY THE FINAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT OF THE COURT.

Further information may be obtained by directing your inquiry in writing to the Claims Administrator.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION.

By Order of The Court

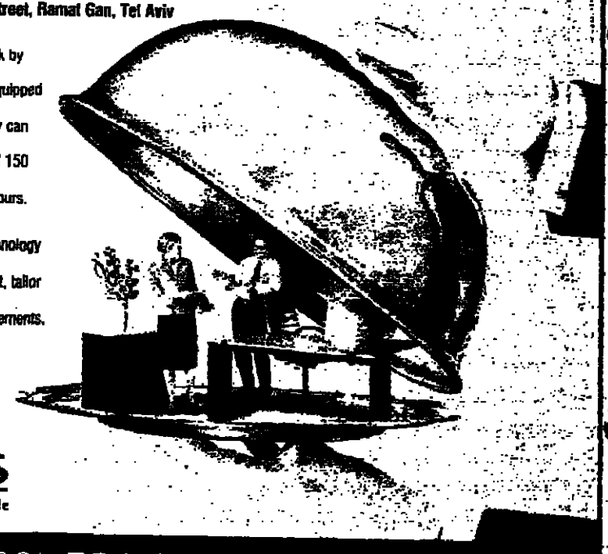
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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأعلى

FTSE drops on telecom, drug weakness • TASE mixed

SHARES

TEL AVIV

TASE shares were mixed as gains by Bezeq and Elbit Medical Imaging offset losses at Bank Leumi and Formula Systems.

The Maof index retreated from a seven-week high, falling 0.15 percent to 320.24.

Elbit Medical Imaging jumped 1.46% to 48.50 shekels. The maker of medical-imaging systems said it would distribute a one-time dividend of $2 a share.

Formula Systems fell 3.41% to 104.80 shekels. The software house's American depositary receipts fell 1 5/8 to 25 3/4 Wednesday in New York, declining with other computer shares.

Bank Leumi fell 0.33% to 6.03. Lehman Brothers on Tuesday bought 2.5% of Bank Leumi, Israel's second-biggest bank, for $51.5 million and then sold the shares to its clients.

Bezeq rose 1.73% to 14.14. Bezeq is trying to persuade the government to reconsider a committee's proposal to reduce local call charges. Analysts said the government is unlikely to force all of the committee's recommendations, which include efficiency measures, on the company.

Discount Investment Corp. rose 0.64% to 125.30. DIC is mulling a merger with affiliate company Clal Industries and Investments. DIC chief executive Dov Tadmor told *Ma'ariv*. Both are controlled, through subsidiaries, by IDB Holding Corp., which fell 0.91% to 87.30. Clal Industries closed unchanged.

Mashov Computers fell 0.61% to 4.91. The computer company plans to open training centers for Palestinians and Jordanians in Gaza, Ramallah and Amman, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. The company said it hopes to develop products in Arabic.

EUROPE

European stock markets closed lower yesterday as renewed weakness on Wall Street unsettled investors and helped to put the dollar under pressure.

Bond markets were also in a gloomy mood, with European fund managers voicing fears about monetary tightening following US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's congressional testimony this week.

The FTSE 100 index's three-day march to record highs came to a shuddering halt yesterday in the face of an ailing Dow and sliding telecom and drug shares.

Life insurance stocks also had a rough day, with Legal & General being the worst performer in the leading UK index following the group's full year results.

By the close, the FTSE 100 of leading shares had shed 101.1 points or 1.6% to 6,206.5, having risen to a new intra-day peak of 6,319.8 just after the market opened.

Market turnover was a healthy 991 million shares by the official end of trading.

ASIA

Japanese stocks rose for a third time in four days. Nissan Motor Co. surged on a report it will forge an alliance with DaimlerChrysler AG. Bridgestone Corp. led a rally by exporters as the dollar gained.

The Nikkei 225 stock average rose 115.00, or 0.8%, to 14,470.45 points. Nissan Motor Co. posted its biggest gains in seven weeks after Kyodo News said DaimlerChrysler may buy a third of Japan's No. 2 automaker, a report both companies denied.

Bridgestone, Sony Corp. and Honda Motor Co. accounted for a tenth of the index's gain as the dollar traded close to a 12-week high.

"Alliances and restructuring are going to make all the difference," said Masatoshi Sato, a manager at Kankaku Securities Co.'s product marketing division. "Investors want to get on board now."

In other markets, Malaysia's benchmark Composite Index fell 0.7% after Genting Bhd., a property and casino company, reported a larger-than-expected decline in profits. Taiwan's Weighted index rose 0.4% on signs the country's biggest semiconductor makers will return to full production next month.

Australia's All Ordinaries Index fell 1.0%, led by Pasminco Ltd., which reported mounting zinc inventories.

WALL STREET

A spike in interest rates yesterday pushed stocks, which have benefited for a long time from reasonable borrowing costs, lower.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average had trimmed sharp losses dramatically as bond futures began to recover. But the Dow still closed down 33.33 points – or by 0.3 percent – at 9,366.34, and it got as low as 9,233.59, down 166 points, during the session.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond plunged $15.63 for every $1,000 valuation, and its yield, which moves opposite the price, rose to 5.62% from 5.51% on Wednesday.

The rise in rates threatened a widespread given in the stock market.

For years, equity prices have risen on the assumption that low interest rates would by encourage consumers to borrow and spend, thus keep the economy and corporate earnings humming.

An added benefit to lower rates was that they would encourage investors to keep buying stocks rather than bonds, their lower-yielding fixed-income alternative.

Stock prices continued to rise even as corporate earnings weakened in the fourth quarter. But that meant that stock prices were even more vulnerable than usual to interest-rate increases, said Gail Dudack, chief equity strategist at UBS Securities.

"When you see the long bond move above 5.5%, it shouldn't be a surprise; it puts a lot of pressure on equities," she said.

Interest rates climbed as investors were steadily fed upbeat news on the economy.

The Commerce Department said demand for durable goods surged 3.9% in January. Then the Labor Department said new claims for unemployment benefits fell by 5,000 last week, suggesting that low unemployment could continue to push wages higher.

TRADING FLOORS



Maof 320.24 ▼ 0.15%

Dow Jones 9366.34 ▼ 0.3%

FTSE 6206.5 ▼ 1.6%

Nikkei 14470.45 ▲ 0.8%

CURRENCIES

The dollar was little changed against the euro, paring earlier losses, as a surprise increase in US factory orders in January fueled expectations for stronger US growth and higher interest rates.

"More strong data just helps the dollar," said Jamie Coleman, a senior currency analyst at Thomson Global Markets.

The dollar was at $1.1016 per euro, stronger than the $1.1053 it reached earlier, though little changed from $1.1007 Wednesday. The US currency was at 120.50 yen, down from 121.44 yen Wednesday.

Higher interest rates are good for the dollar because they boost the allure of dollar-denominated deposits and bonds.

Orders for big-ticket goods unexpectedly rose 3.9%, the biggest gain in more than a year, compared with a revised 3.4 percent the month before. Before the report, analysts expected an 0.2% decline in January orders.

Another report showed the number of US workers applying for state unemployment benefits fell last week, while the four-week average held at the lowest level in a decade, offering more evidence of labor-market strength.

COMMODITIES

METALS

Gold and silver traded quietly in early European precious metals business on Thursday while platinum took a breather after this week's rally, dealers said.

Gold was quoted 50 cents lower at $287.00/$287.40 a troy ounce from the New York close at $287.50/$288.00.

Dealers said trading conditions were quiet with some interest in silver which had firmed slightly in London to be last quoted at $5.42/$5.44 a troy ounce compared to the close in New York at $5.40/$5.43.

Silver dropped in New York on Wednesday on long liquidation in a session that focused on spread trading, dealers said.

"The silver looks like it was a weak fund long-liquidation, and despite some further short covering in Tokyo and early this morning in London, we expect it to find the upside limited," one dealer said.

Gold fared well on Wednesday but dealers said bullion found it tough to crack the $288.00 level while overnight light producer selling out of Australia put a lid on the price.

"With the move in the Australian dollar you would expect that bits and pieces would be pushed into the market at various numbers. It wasn't massive, it was natural scale-up selling into a market which looks attractive to them," another dealer said.

The Australian dollar fell to three-week lows on Thursday, which pushed the gold price in local currency to around A$455.00 – its highest level in a month.

One dealer said gold might be firming.

"Gold seems to be firming slightly, and may see some ratio trading against the silver. However, above $290.00 the going gets sticky, and above $292.00 positively tough.

Platinum was quiet after its higher rally earlier this week and was last quoted at $380.00/$382.00 from the New York close at 382.70/$284.70.



ENERGY

Brent crude oil for April delivery was little changed as a cold snap in the US bolsters demand for heating fuels, helping to reduce a glut of oil and refined products.

Crude oil fell as much as 9 cents to $10.99 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange in London. April crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell as much as 8 cents to $12.53 a barrel in electronic trading.

(News agencies)

From GE to AMR, corporate giants join fund fray

MARKETWATCH
by TIM QUINSON

BOSTON (Bloomberg) – General Electric Co. hopes that one day it will have as many customers for its mutual funds as it does for its light bulbs and washing machines.

"Our goal is to be a significant force in asset management," said Michael Cosgrove, president of the GE Funds unit. GE, which started selling funds to the public in 1993, started four new ones this week.

Surprisingly, GE is just one of several industrial US corporations that compete in the increasingly crowded $5 trillion market of mutual funds. Others selling funds are AMR Corp., which runs American Airlines; Caterpillar Inc., the world's largest maker of construction machinery; and Owens-Illinois Inc., the largest maker of glass containers in North America.

And now General Motors Corp., the world's biggest automaker, said it's also weighing whether to join the fray. GM officials declined to be more specific.

Managing other people's money is a natural enough diversification for these companies. They have decades of experience managing the retirement savings of their employees.

GM, for instance, manages about $110 billion of assets, most of it for company employee pension accounts.

So, why shouldn't these companies take a stab at an industry where profit margins are about 30 percent of sales, or double those of most other businesses?

The growth record of these companies in the fund business is underwhelming – at least so far. Mutual funds marketed by GE, AMR, Caterpillar and Owens-Illinois all told have about $27.2 billion of assets. Fidelity Investments' Advisor Growth Opportunities — only that fund group's fourth-largest stock fund, has $29.4 billion of assets.

"I'm not sitting here saying I'm as big as Fidelity or Vanguard," Cosgrove said. "I am saying I'm willing to fight the race being GE."

GE, the second-biggest US company in market value after Microsoft Corp., now has 17 funds, which are sold through brokerages and banks such as Paine Webber Group Inc., PNC Bank Corp. and Chase Manhattan Corp.

The top-performing GE funds of the past three years are GE Value Equity, GE US Equity and GE Strategic Investment, according to researchers at Chicago-based Morningstar Inc.

The company has been investing the pension assets of company employees since 1935 and has managed money for other companies since 1960. GE's mutual funds have total assets of about $5 billion, a smidgen of the $80 billion that GE Investment Management Inc. and its affiliates run overall. The mutual funds are profitable, Cosgrove said, declining to be more specific.

Analysts say they expect GE to buy other fund companies to boost its management fees but Cosgrove wouldn't comment on that.

Owens-Illinois has sold funds through its Harbor Capital Advisors Inc. money-management unit since 1986. Harbor Capital, based in Toledo, Ohio, now offers nine funds with a combined $13 billion of assets.

One of the company's most popular funds, the $5.2 billion Harbor International Fund, ranked as the 17th best-performing international equity fund of 234 tracked by Bloomberg Fund Performance over the past three years, rising at annual rate of 15.9%.

AMR introduced its first mutual fund in 1987 and today has nine funds with about $7.3 billion in assets, the company said.

Caterpillar started Caterpillar Investment Management Ltd. in 1990 to manage the assets of the company's 401(k) plan and then to market those same services to other companies.

Caterpillar's eight Preferred Group mutual funds now have combined assets of $1.9 billion but the company still puts more emphasis on pension-related accounts.

"The traditional retail market is very competitive and establishing yourself in that marketplace requires sensational performance or tremendous advertising, which gets expensive," said Ronald Rossman, president of Caterpillar Investment Management in Peoria, Illinois.

The most successful companies in fund management whose roots lie outside fund management are Marsh & McLennan Cos. and Kansas City Southern Industries Inc. Both companies entered fund management through acquisitions.

New York-based Marsh & McLennan purchased Putnam Investments in 1970. Today, Putnam ranks as America's fifth-biggest US mutual fund company with a total of about $300 billion of assets.

Boston-based Putnam accounted for 48% of Marsh & McLennan's pretax operating income last year.

Kansas City Southern started as a railroad in 1887 and entered the mutual fund business in the 1960s. In 1984, the company acquired Janus Capital Corp., which at the time had about $300 million of assets.

Today, Denver-based Janus has about $120 billion of assets, and ranks as one of America's fastest-growing fund companies.

Not every entrant has had that kind of luck.

Bell Atlantic Corp., a regional telephone company, sold its fund business in early 1992 to T. Rowe Price Associates Inc. And International Business Machines Corp. sold its fund group to Fleet Financial Group Inc. in 1994.

Other industrial companies that moved into funds may be unhappy when the stock market finally cools off, analysts say.

"The market is over-saturated with thousands of funds, so when the bull market ends, it will be a business with declining revenues," said Charles Biderman, president of Trimtabs.com, which monitors fund flows.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE%
Africa Hotels	597	0
Africa Israel 0.1	20500	0
Africa Israel 1	178500	-0.6
Agis	1978	-2.1
Al Peper Mills	15430	-0.1
Al-Rov	1710	0
Azorim	3160	0.3
Azrolm Prop.	743	-0.9
Bank Leumi 0.1	603	-0.3
Bezeq	3270	-0.9
Bezeq 1	46500	2.9
Bezeq 5	210000	0
Delek	1414	1.7
Elbit System	5320	-1.5
Elron	2750	1.5
Gazit	2060	1
Gil Electronics	63000	-0.3
Gil-Industries	1950	0
Gilat Satcom	3500	-1.1
Granite Hacarmel	2650	-0.7
Hamashbir	650	-5.5
Hapoalim	2910	0
Harel	580	-3.4
Hed Dan Wate 0.1	943	0.7
Hed 0.1	11100	3.9
Hed Ltd	820	0.1
Hed Pharm	3650	-1.8
Hedwatergat Mod	17500	-1.3
Hevrat Bituh	355	-1.4
Discount Inv	12530	0.6
Elbit 0.003	1570	-0.9
Elbit Imaging	4850	1.5
Elbit Medical	5310	0.5
Eco Holdings	2110	-2.8
Eco Industries	3460	0.9
Electra	17500	-0.3
Electra App	2000	-0.7
Elite Ind. 1	2800	0
Elite Ind. 5	14100	-0.3
Elron 0.005	6980	0.4
ESBLS	2810	0.4
First Int'l 1	425	-0.9
First Int'l 5	2040	-1.9
First Int'l Mod	31200	1
Formula	10480	-3.4
Gilgoal Bank	8740	0
Gilgoal Mashkl	495	-1.2
Hadera Paper	7980	0
Hadera 0.1	784	0
Hed Mishmar 1	3290	0
Hed Mishmar 5	16940	0
Home Center	3709	-0.1
I.D.B. Dev.	9100	-0.7
I.D.B. Holdings	5730	-0.9
ILDC	2100	-2.8
Ind Bldgs	900	0.2
Israel Chemicals	412	-1
Israel-Corp. 1	36800	0.3
Isrotel	610	0
Jubas	835	0.1
KOT	29.1	0
KEO	1525	-7.4
Klion	466	-4.5
Koltelec	4100	-2.5
Koor	39500	-0.5
Lapoal Insurance	2225	0
Lapoal Mortgage	59500	3.5
Lavie	3180	-0.3
Matrix	1230	-0.5
Mehilainim Agas Ind.	788	0.4
Menorah	822	0.6
Merkaz	4840	-3.6
Mehadrin	11500	0
Mid-Eilat	1540	0
Mishkanot	1525	1
Migdalei Inv. 1	1650	0
Migdalei Inv. 5	68000	3.1
Mivtach Shamir	2320	0
Mivtal	728	0

	LAST	CHANGE%
NATSWA REGULAR	1459	-0.3
Nice Systems	12100	3
Ormat Industries	450	-1.1
Osem Industries	1813	-1.9
Petrochemicals	2100	-1.4
Phoenix Ins. 1	798	-2
Plasson	4590	3.1
Positiv Inv.	11970	-0.2
Point of Sale	3220	-2.1
Prop & Bldg	31800	-0.6
Saif Industries	7790	-1.9
Shikun u'Binui	285	+1.1
Solel Bone	3660	-0.8
Supercal	1026	-1.3
Teksm	1850	1.1
Tambour	500	-2.2
Telebor	184500	0
Tempo	1559	-0.1
Teva	17360	0
Urupa Israel	2880	7.4
Wire and Cables	1143	-0.1
Ytong Industries	900	0

RETZEF
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE%
Abtec	1.6	0
Abtil	42.8	0
Ace-Spade	87.3	0
Ackerstein Bond B	153.4	0
Ackerstein Ind.	405	-1.2
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1470	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	8000	0
Adanco	297400	0
Adler	120	0
Adsha	120	0
Adumbs	310	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	97.5	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	71	1.4
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	141.5	0
Alaak Ind	974	0
Agis Warrant 4	225	0.8
Agtah Int'l	305	0
Ajal Investments	430	0
Al-Dan	149.9	0
Al-Dan Bond A	124.2	-0.2
Alfa c2	95.8	0
Alfa w5	114	0
Alliance	561	0
Alonl	279	3.3
Alony-Hetz	475	2.8
Alony-Hetz Bond A	220	0
Alrod	200	0
Alrov Bond D	92.2	-0.4
Alrov Wagamt 5	70	0
Alumit	298	0
Alumit	2100	0
Amigur	205	0
Amitec	127	0
Argamll Warrant 1	80	0
Armet	710	0.5
Arupa Investments	9230	-2.8
Ashdod EMS	517	-5
Aspen Trade	57.5	0
Aspen Trade Bond A	161	0
Aspen Trade Bond B	120	0.8
Aspen Trade Bond C	62.5	0
Apcon	898	0
Apcon warrant 1	170	0
Applicom	2310	-3.3
Aspen Warrant 2	304	-1
Asrot	1250	0
Asrot Towers	1300	-0.8
Assuta	140	0
Aspenren	127	0
Astarian	1375	0
Aryel	135	0
Ayo	394	-0.8
Ashkelon Plywood	614	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	159	0
Ashtrot	486	0
Ashtrot Bond A	192	0

	LAST	CHANGE%
Ashot	247	0
Ashot Bond A	182	0
Ashpasa	90.6	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	180.2	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	169.5	0
Ashtrom Ind.	550	0
Ashtrom Prop.	170.1	0
Astrom P Bond 1	94	0
Astrom p warrant a	22	0
Astrum Bond C	105.8	0.2
Astrum Warrant 2	12.8	-8.6
Atlon	80	0
Atmor	1053	3.2
ATX	172	0
Atzmon	160	0
Aura	4650	0.2
Avagot	280	-1.8
Avarot Bond A	165	0
Avebuch Formica	600	0
Aviv	400	0
Aviv Bond 1	159.8	-0.1
Aviv Bond 2	90.5	0.8
Avner	4.7	-2.1
Avrot Bond 2	98	0
Avrot Warrant 2	30	3.4
Ayalon	860	0
Azrieli	444	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	183.1	0
Azorim Warrant 13	395	-1.2
Azorim Warrant 5	103.2	0
Azorim Warrant A	220	-4.3
Azorim Warrant B	500	0
Bedesh Bond 1	25.1	0
Bekol	299	0
Belantine 1	143.5	0
Belantine Bond A	136	0
Belmas	3920	0
Bemat Israel	950	0
Benat asel Bond A	149.7	0
Ber	333	0
Bar Bond A	137	0
Barad	259	0
Besanowitz	602	0
Barkan	819	3.2
Bazaol	109	0
Bartal	220	0
Basmel Moshe	168.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	94.5	0
BaySide Warrant D	1550	30
Beit Shemesh	1590	-0.7
Belmon	400	-3.6
Ben Yakar Bond A	165	0
Ben Yakar Bond B	85	-1.2
Ben Yakar Gal	4300	0
Benmam	150	0
Bezeek Bond 3	139	1.3
Bezeek Warrant Bond 3	585	5.8
Bilu	2200	4.8
Bilu Bond A	165	0
Binar	260	0
Bird	2600	0
Bolos Bond B	85.9	0
bolos pad warrant 1	80.5	0
Bonel Tichon	499	0
Bonjour	599	0
Boulous Brothers	780.8	8.5
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	288	0
Boulous GD	292	-2
Boulous GD Bond A	140	0
Brand	99	0
Brik	57	0.8
Bank Sida	14.9	0
Brosh	102	0
Building Bank	1257	-0.2
Building Resou.	4100	0
C Holdings	390	8.1
C Holdings Bond 5	65	0
Cassorso 1	6580	0
Capital	961	-0.3
Capital Bond A	121	0
Caprice	275	0.7
Cargal	559	2
Carmel	459	0
Carmiel	402	0
Castro	495	0
Catalana 1	431	0
CDI	199	0
Cementeal Bond A	50.4	0.8
Cementeal	231	0

	LAST	CHANGE%
Centra	150	0
Centra Bond 1	141.2	0
Chem	383	0
Chayun Computers	181	0
Chelngal	450	0
Chim-Rir	315	-1.6
Cl Systems	112	-0.9
Cidelo	400	25
Clal Computers	10790	1
Clal Retail	49700	0
Cohen Bond	151	0
Cohen Dev.	150	0
Cohen Mill	130	0
Cold Storage 1	2330	-0.4
Compl	172.5	0
Compl Warrant 1	11.7	0
Computile	190	0
Comtech	420	-7.5
Comtrans	809	0
Contel	1176	-1.6
Contractors	21800	0
Coral Beach	768	0
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	3020	1.3
Cyclone Bond 2	173.8	0
Dafron	1391	0
Dalin	1	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	770	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	168.2	0
Danbar 1	3380	0
Danbar 5	8680	1.6
Danbar Bond A	294	0
Danbar Resources	4360	9.8
Danbar Resources Bond B	175.9	-0.8
Danbar Tech	3750	0
Danbar Technologies Bond A	158.9	0.5
Daniel	90	0
Daniel Bond A	91	0
Daniel Personnel	1900	0
Daniel Warrant 2	151	0
Dankner Bond 1	218	0
Dankner Bond 2	147	0
Dankner Bond 3	95	0
Dankner Warrant C	380	0
Darby	400	-4.8
Darsal	109.4	0
DARBAN BOND 2	102	0
Darbon Bond A	171.1	0
Darbon Warrant 3	52	0
Dasea	154.6	0
Datron	280	0
Dash Investment	640	0
Data	643	5.4
Decision Systems	331	0
Degem Systems	415	1.2
Delek Drillings	14.2	4.4
Delek Oil	1400	0
Delthy	1060	0
Dipel	1213	-2.1
Diforn1	1400	0
Dolev	320	0
Dolev Bond A	145.4	0
Dolev warrant 1	19.3	0
Domisar	461	0
Domisar Bond	163.2	0
Dor Berger	270	0
Dor Chem	320	0
Dor Energy	1237	0
Dorc wt	41.6	0
Dorse	50.6	0
Dorl el	100	0.5
Dori Engineering	472	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	144.5	-0.3
Dowrat Bond A	147.5	0
Dowrat Shrem	1449	0.6
DSI	649	0
Dubek M	5.9	0
Dubek S	3	0
Duntov	230	0
DVS Industries	430	0
E & M Computing	1300	0
Edgar Allenl	49.5	0
Edgar Industries	191.1	-5.8
Edgar Inv. Bond C	88.8	-0.4
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	17.8	5.3
Edgr Bond A	95	0
Eldl	136.3	-9
Elscint	380	1.7
Elscsan	3650	0

	LAST	CHANGE%
El Bad	2190	-0.5
El Canit	395	0
El Canit Bond 1	182.2	-3.5
Elad	486	0
Elad Bond A	178	0
Elad Bond B	150.3	0
Elad c3	75	0.9
Elad w5	15	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	135.5	0.4
Elden Tech	175	0
Electronics Line	599	0
Elgar	7000	0
Elitech Ind.	1117	1.5
Elicom	274	-2.1
Elite	275	0
Ella Bond A	144	0
Elron	5000	0
Emsh	197.9	0
Enyfe	992	0
Engel Const.	530	0
Esl	1450	3.6
Eshed Robotech	183.5	0
Even	482	0
Evecs Warrant 1	1190	-4.3
Excellence	1472	0
Export Inv.	799	0
Extm	124	0
Feldman	53.1	0
Feldman Bond A	157.5	0
Feldman Ind.	350	0
Feuchtwanger 1	7200	-4.5
Feuchtwanger 5	31600	-0.9
Fidelli	2850	9.7
Five J Jewelers	371	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	137	0
Formica Source	100	0
Fraterm	377	0
Gahelet	11100	-1.4
Galcom	65	0
Galorn	1350	0
Gama	139	0
Gamatronic	228	0
Gambit	2940	0
Gan ShmoelBond A	111	0.1
Gan ShmoelWarrant 3	360	-5
Gan Shmuel	1279	-2
Ganel Hador	494	0
Gap Development	125	0
Gap Holdings	182	0
Gap Warrant 2	1	0
Gazit	700	0
Gazit Bond C	132.7	0
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	87.5	0.6
Gibor Sabrina	82	0
Gibor Sport	681	0
Gibor Warrant 2	92	0
Gilboa	54	0
Gillo	180	0
Gilbot	19203	-3.4
Gilat Oilam Oil	109.8	0
Glob Rit	858	1.8
Golan	489	0
Gold	375	0
Golden House	512	0
Golor	217	0
Granit Bond	155.5	0
Granit Bond 2	148.1	0
Green Software	148	8.9
Greenberg	1598	3.7
H. Electronics	49.2	0
H. Mor	831	2
Habas	3480	0
Habas Bond 1	134	0
Hadar 1	30000	0
Hadar 5	104000	4
Hadarlns. 1	830	9.2
Hadar Ins. 5	9580	1.2
Hadarim Bond1.	117.1	0.3
Hadarim Warrant1	954	0
Hagal	439	0
Hagal Bond B	165.1	0.1
Ham-Let	1290	0
Hamelor	158.3	0
Hanel	47.8	2.4
Hasn Esh	807	0
Hasoja	240	0
Hatehol 1	156	-1.9
Hatehol Bond A	150.1	0
Hayel	1110	-6.3

	LAST	CHANGE%
Hayal Bond2	100	-9.1
Hayal Warrant 1	76.5	-0.6
Hed Arzi Music	247	-10.2
Hiron 1	10150	0
Hiron 5	34000	0
HL Service Bond 2	181.1	0
HL Service Bond 3	154	0
HL Services	2390	0
Hod	105	0
Hof	320	0
Holit	155	-8.8
Hydrotica	115	0
IES Industries	240	0
IES Warrant 1	25.5	0
Ilan Gal	118	0
Ilan Gal Bond A	163.7	0
ILDC Bond 6	270	0
ILDC Hotels	320	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	89	0
ILDC Insurance	366	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	141.4	0
Inco	882	4.8
Ind Bld Warrant 3	18.5	12.1
Ind Bldgs R1	2.3	0
Ind.Dev.Bank C	341	0.6
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3390	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3400	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1364	0
Independence Mort	43500	-0.5
Intercosma	1050	0
Intergamma 1	2480	0
Intergamma 5	11700	0
Inumtech	600	0
Iscal	1089	0
Ispro	5590	0
Ispsolar	477	0
Israel Corp. 5	156000	-0.6
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	146.4	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	190	0
Isralom	884	-1.8
Isralom Bond C	86.5	0
Issamco	2.5	-3.8
Issas 1	6740	-0.1
Issas 5	29700	0.3
ISTA LINES	2290	0
Itay	2500	0
Itay Bond 1	80	0
Itay Warrant 1	360	0
Jabora Bond A	180	-0.6
Jaysour	165	0
Jaysour Bond A	107.7	-8.9
JEC Bond B	98.3	0.1
Jerusalem Mort	189.1	-0.5
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 18	173	0
Jounesse	90.2	0
JOEL	530	-2.8
JOEL Bond 1A	244	0
JOEL Bond 2	131.5	-0.4
JOEL Bond A	344	0
JOEL Warrant 3	2.6	0
Kadimal	118	0
Kadoori	729	0
kafrica bond b	91.8	0
kafrica warrant 1	64	0
Kahir	1120	2
Kallalli Bond A	84.5	-0.2
Kalfalli warrant 2	138	5.4
Kamour	343	0
Kamour Bond G	138	0
Kamsepi	923	0
Kanal Warrant G	1	0
Kanicol	36	0
Kanicol Bond A	42.7	0
Kardan 1	520	1
Kardan 5	2510	0
Katz	128	0
Katz Bond A	80.6	0
Kedem Chemicals	2700	0
Kenaka	516	0
Kesher	838	0
Kesher Bond A	158	0
Kelor	599	0
Kind	16.9	0
Kind Bond A	33	0
King	220	0
Kinneret	169	0
Kitsch Kinir	183	0
Kitheal Teuta	1132	0
Kitsi	220	0
Kitsi Bond A	175	0

	LAST	CHANGE%
Kitsi Bond A	83	-1.8
Klil Ind. 5	6780	-1.2
Koor Bond 5	147.5	0
Kopel	333	0
Kopel Bond 1	251	0
La Nationale Bond A	151.5	0
La Nationale Pref	127	0
Lachish	2780	0.4
Lamont	620	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Off Explorers	65.2	0
Lasers	430	1.2
Lavliev	450	0
Lazarick Bldg	449	0
Lazarick Comm Ctrs	138.6	0
Lazarick Commercial Centres Bond	138.5

	LAST	CHANGE*
Mediterranean Warrant 2	33	3.1
Megasoft	57.5	0
Mehadrin	1950	0
Mehadrin Warrant	1449	0
Melal	269	0
Melisron	1450	0
Melisron Bond B	95	0
Melisron Warrant 3	30	-16.9
Mendelson	291	0
Menorah	24	0
Menorah Ins. 5	6900	0
Mercazit	830	0
Merhav	135	3.1
Meytav	104	0
Middle East Tube	180	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	115	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	1	0
Millmor Bond A	138	0
Millomar Bond B	75.7	0.9
Millomar Warrant 2	61	0
Millomar	1457	0
Minrosar	132.9	0
Mird Line	857	0
Mirrav	12650	-2.7
Mirage	165	0
Mirage Bond A	137	1.3
Mirorme	60	0
Mishmar	19	0
Mishmar Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	155.5	0
Mishor Hahol	355	0
Mivtarim	126	0
Mivtech Shamir	1199	6.4
Mizrahi Inv.	9940	0
Mizrahi warrant 2	98	-4.3
MM Engineering	101	0
MM Engineering Bond A	71.6	0
Modgal	750	0
Modi'in	1	0
Modlar	191.2	-2.3
Modlar Convertible Bond AAA	220	0
Molatt	852	0
More Plastic Ind.	332	0
Moshkowitz	126	-8.9
MTI Computers	230	0
Mul-T-Lock	662	0
Multi Sense	223	0
Nachshon Fund	33.4	-9.5
Naphtha	22.4	4.2
Naphtha Oil Exp.	27	-9.2
Nasour	580	-19.8
NATSWA BOND A	106	0
NavAgator	222	0
Navigator Property	905	-1.1
Nechushtan Bond B	70	-1
Nechushtan Prop.	155.9	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	145	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	17.9	0
Negev Ceramics	165.3	0
Nehushtan 1	470	0
Nehushtan 5	2600	0
Neot Avni	7500	0
Nesua	427	0
Nesu Arbel	185	0
Nevelim Hotels	354	0
Newcit	809	-3.1
Nia	268	0
Nikuv	700	2.9
Nisco	2030	0.5
Nissan	261	0
NMC	234	0
Noga	1590	0
Noga Insurens.	78	0.6
Nordan	13.4	0
Nordan Tech.	500	0
Norlift	596	0
Norlift Bond A	151	0
Nur	63	0
NYP	1210	0
Oceane	272	0
Ocil	8090	-0.1
Ocil Bond A	194	0
Ocil Bond C	92.5	0
Ocif Warrant 2	500	-3.8
Octava	495	0
Ofek	219	0
Ofer Bro	6700	0
Ofris	950	0
Ogdan	61	0
Ohaliav	568	0
Oil Fields	2.4	9.1
Ok-Dok	225	0
Omni	253	0
Omnitech	210	0
Ophir	299	0
Ophir Tours	440	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	143	0
Orasys	2790	3.7
Orazir	500	0
Orazir Bond A	172.4	0
Orbit	775	0
Orda	2440	0
Orda Bond 1	181	0.8
Orev	503	0
Oneli	111.9	0
Oniria	313	0
Orlite Bond A	91.6	0
Orlite Warrant 2	48	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	133.6	-0.9
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	1	-88.5
Orlat	386	0
Otzar Hashilon	23000	2.2
Oz	151.9	4.8
Oz alide	368	0
Packer Steel	5480	-2.2
Patrough	848	-0.6
PAM	355	0
Pama	605	0
Pamas	1799	0
Pan Dor	250	0
Pardes	600	0
Pardes Bond A	42	0
Pasagen	1447	0
Paz Chen	520	0
PCB	1198	8.9
Pdan Investment	27.5	0
Perac	123	0
Perclase	1073	5.7
Phoenix Ins. 5	3220	0
Pico Plast	300	0
Pilat	93	3.3
Pinroe	130	0
Pinros Bond A	146	0
Pitdi	401	0
Plasson bond a	102	0
Plasson warrant 1	396	1.5
Plasto Sac	555	0
Plasto Sheck Bond A	90	0
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	60	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	94.4	-0.3
Poalim Inv. Warrant 9	1839	0
Poalim Investments Bond A	133	-5.5
Polak	200	0
Polgat A	408	-1.4
Polgat B 4	1655	-0.3
Polygon	2000	0
Poraz	221	-0.9
Port	115	0
Poseidon	89.5	0
Pri Haemek	21	0
Pri Haemek Bond A	35.1	0
Pritzker	170.2	0
Pritzker Bond A	162.5	0
Profit	440	0
Profit Bond A	138.2	0
Python	498	2
Quality Cap Mkts	472	-4.6
Rabinex	299	4.9
Ram Zur	58.5	0
Ramgor 1	170	0
Ramgor 4	455	0
Rapak	2040	1.5
Rapak Bond A	180	0
Rassco	1410	0.7
Ratio	1	0
Rav Car	178	0
Rawad	137	0
RDC	899	0
RDC Bond A	150.5	0
Red Sea Hotels	731	0
Regency	119	0
Regency Bond 1	127	-0.8
Regent Bond A	156	0.5
Rekah	380	-2.5
Reshef	55	0
Reshef Bond B	113	0
Ramoni	780	3.3
Rogosin	1775	1.4
Rogozin Bond A	84.1	0
Rogozin Warrant B	350	-12.3
Romtech	630	0
Rosebud	85.9	0
Rosenki	102.5	9.5
Rotem	246	0
Rotshtein	120	0
Rotshtein Bond A	140	0
RSL	540	-0.7
Sadot Mop Bond A	102.5	0
Sagie Prop. Bond 1	23.1	0
Sahar Bond a	95	0
Saher Dev.	2790	0
Sahar Securities	560	0
Sahar Warrant 1	390	0
Sanlabol	336	-0.3
Sano 1	2650	0
Sano 5	14600	4.3
Scope	1170	0
Scope Bond A	94	0
Scope Warrant 2	86	0
Sea Trade	505	0
Secom	286	0
Securitas	900	0
Securitas Bond A	187.7	3.2
Selen	1185	0
Serafon	355	0
Shaked	358	0
Shamir	578	0
Shatiryah	900	0
Shel	209	0
Shekel	220	0
Shekel Bond A	154.5	0
Shelam	98.4	-3.8
Shelam Bond 1	152.8	0
Shelcq	121	0
Shem Tov	305	0
Shemen	12150	0
Shidatel	59.2	2.1
Shimon Angel	5750	0
Shmi c2	96.7	0
Shmi w2	192	0
Shmira	711	0
Shmira Bond A	159.8	0
Shnitr	494	6.8
Shtamp	85	-1.9
Shulamit	445	0
Shulamit Bond A	148.9	0
Sinai	690	0
Sinai Bond A	130.9	0
Solel Bone Bond A	109.4	0
Sol BoneRt	25.4	-27.2
Solog	551	-5
Solomon	576	0
solomon bond a	80	0.3

	LAST	CHANGE*
Solomon Holdings	365	0
solomon warrant 2	58	0
South Pipe	353	0
Spancrt	175	0
Spectronit 1	1241	-0.2
STG	1050	5
STG Bond A	118	0
Sunfrost	4050	0
Suny Electronics	700	-3.4
Synopsis	172	0
Synopsis Bond A	151.1	0
Synrec	305	0
Ta'al	185.7	0
Tachal Bond B	81.8	0.2
Tachal Warrant 3	56.6	0
Tadbik	220	0
Tadiran Appl	550	-1.8
Tal	130	0
Tal Bond A	39	0
TAP Bond 1	288	0
Tashtiot bond a	121.6	0
Tashtiot warrant 2	184.1	0
Tashtiuz Bond A	156.5	0
Tashtiuz Bond B	146.4	0
Taste of Israel	176	0
TAT 1	370	-2.6
TAT 5	1297	0
Teya	58	-5.6
Teya Comm. 1	331	-6.8
Team Computers	5550	0
Technoplast	505	-1.2
Tedea	1450	0
Tedea Bond A	109	0
Tedea Warrant 1	157	0
Telehot Preferred	171900	0
Telen	1350	-10
Teldor	553	0.9
Telsys	1240	0
Telsis Warrant 1	300	0
Tene	180	0
Tauza	195	-2.1
Teuza insured	183.6	-0.8
Tibon Veal	122	0
Tim Warrant 3	530	0
Tir	369	0
TMM	151	0
Tobias	1663	0
Tom	1070	0
Topline	530	0
Topline Bond 2	164.7	0
Topper	462	0
Tosaf Compounds	379	0
Trade	374	0
Trade Bond A	214	0
Trend Line	1800	0
Trocadero	36	0
Tryglkal	513	0
Tsabar	188	0
Tsarfati	536	0
Tsarfati Bond A	154	0
Tsur	157.6	3.1
Tsur Bond A	239	0
Tsur Bond B	117	-0.4
Tsur Bond C	102.8	0
Tsur Preferred	155	0
Tuttenauer	930	0
Tzmicha	520	0
Ulisha	38	0
Unibar 1	754	0
Unibar 5	784	0
Unico	4500	0
Unicorn 1	34	0
Unicorn Bond 1	300	0
Unidress	2070	0
United Steel	120	0
United Steel Industries Bond 1	160.5	0
Unitercoi	510	0
Urdan	287	-0.3
Vardinon	25100	0
Vardinon Bond A	169	0
Vardanon Convertible Bond AAA	154.3	0
Videomatrix	28.7	0
Vitar	444	0
Vitar Bond 1	162	0
Vit Food	1200	0
Vitger Bond A	155	0
Vitalgo	340	0
Vitalgo Bond A	133.8	0
Vulcan	491	0
Willi Bond A	88.9	0
Willi Warrant 1	325	0
Woolfman 1	470	1.9
Woolfman 5	2100	-4.5
Woolson	55800	0
Ya'ara	871	0
Yaacobi	116	0
Yaad Bond A	186.8	0
Yaad Bond B	81.3	0
Yaad Indust.	311	-5.2
Yaad Warrant 3	60	0
Yad	490	0
Yamit	186	0
Yarden	429	0
Yarden Bond 2	133	0
YDPZ	252	0
YDPZ Bond A	155	0
Yeda	1580	0
Yehuda	209	0
Yesh Gad	38.7	0
Yhsal	1580	0
Yhshel Warrant 1	375	0
Yona Bond 1	163.4	0
Yona Hotels	196.5	12.5
Yozma	432	0
Yuval	124	0
Zahir	585	0
Zanes Holdings	54.5	0
Zarfati Bond B	91	0
Zarfati Warrant 2	19	0
Zet	104	0
Zehavi	143	0
Zeller Ablagon	390	0
Zeller Ablagon Bond A	157	0
Zeller Ablagon Bond B	117.1	0
Zeller Inv. Bond A	63.6	0
Zeller Inv. Warrant 1	3.4	0
Zika 1	565	0
Zika 5	2540	0
Zika 1	2750	0
Zika 5	10100	0
Zinomersal	540	0
Zion Cables 1	250	0
Zion Holdings	15000	0
Zion Textiles	200	0
Ziv	205	0
Zohar	251	-9.7
Zoko	298	0



AMEX

Am Israel Paper Mills	37.125	+0
Ampal American Israel	4.25	-0.25
Carmel Container Sys	5.875	0
Electro Chemical Ind.	0.6875	0
Emulsek	5.875	-0.25
Etz Lavud	8.4375	0
Etz Lavud Cl A	5.125	0
Integrated Technology	1.5	+0

NASDAQ

ACS Electronics Ltd	2	+0
Accent Software	0.25	+0
A.G. Associates	5.373	+0
Aladdin	10.0625	-0.5625
Ampal	11.6875	+0.3125
Arel Comman & Software	5.8125	+0.0625
Arel Comm & Soft Warrant	1.0625	+0
Baltex Online Solutions	4.75	+0
Baltar Online Sol Ltd 99	0.375	+0
Biogen Inc	96.25	+0.25
Bio Technology General	6.375	-0.125
B.V.R. Systems Ltd	9.25	+0.3125
B.V.R. Technologies	2.78125	+0.03125
Checkpoint Software	40.5625	-0.5
Cimatron	1.75	+0.03125
Comverse Technology	73.125	-1.375
Crystal Systems Solutions	8.0625	-0.0625
D.S.P.G. Group	14.625	-0.3125
D.S.P.T. Tech	5.625	+0
Data Systems Software	2	-0.0625
ECI Telecom	37.0625	-0.625
Edusoft	7.78125	-0.03125
Electric Fuel	3.4375	+0
Electronics for Imaging	36	+1
Elbit Computers	3.625	-0.1875
Elron Electronics ord	17	-0.25
Elbit Medical Imaging	11.5	-0.4375
Elbit Systems Ltd	13.375	-0.25
Eltek Circuit Boards	0.90625	0
Engel General Developers	1.625	-0.375
ESC Medical Systems Ltd	5.0625	-0.09375
Elbit Vision Systems	1.78125	-0.03125
Fahed Robotec (1982)	0.375	+0
Formula Systems (1985)	24.5	-1.25
Forsoft Ltd	9.5625	-0.0625
Fundtech	21.125	-0.875
Galileo	23	-1.25
G Wiz-Food	1.1875	+0
Gilat Comm Ltd	9.75	+0.5625
Gilat Satellite Networks	59.375	-1.125
Genesis Bnlg	2.5	-0.375
Healthcare Technologies	0.875	-0.125
Home Center	9.75	-0.125
I.C.T.S.	4.625	-0.375
IIG Industries	11.125	0
U.S. Intelligent Info	0.5	-0.03125
Israel Land Develop - ADR	15	0
Indigo	4.125	-0.1875
ISG Intl Software Group	11.75	+0.4375
Isramco	2.125	+0
Lan Optics	2.25	+0.0625
Logal	0.5625	0
Level 8 Systems	10.625	+0.5
M-Systems Flash Disk	4	-0.125
Madge	3.75	+0
Magal Security Systems	3.03125	-0.15625
Mastay	24.25	+0.25
Media El	7	+0.5625
Mamco	10.875	-0.0625
Mer Telemanagement	1.625	-0.0625
Mercury	66.25	+0.5
Magic Software Enterprises	5.3375	+0
Nestmanage	2.78125	+0.125
New Dimension Software	45.875	-0.375
Nexus Telecomm Sys Ltd	2.3125	+0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Nice Systems	30	+0.375
Neuro-Medical Systems	0.28125	+0.03125
Noga Electro Mechanical	0.875	+0
Nur Tecnology	3	-0.125
Opti Systems Solutions	8	+0
Optomedics Medical Tech	0.96875	-0.29125
Optomedics Medical Warrant	0.25	0
Orbit/FR Inc	2.125	+0
Orbotech	45.625	-0.875
Orckit	14.75	-0.25
Oshap Technologies	8.875	-0.4375
Paradigm Geophys	4.625	+0
Pharmos	1.3125	+0.03125
Point of Sale	7.75	+0
Rada Electronics Ind	0.96875	+0
Radcom Ltd	3	-0
RIT Technologies	1.8125	-0
RSL Communications	27.75	+1.25
Scitex Corporation	9.375	-0.125
Silicom	1.6875	0
Summit Design	3.4375	-0.0625
Sapiens International	10.8875	+0.4375
Scanvec	2.375	-0.0625
Tadiran Telecomm	20.5	+0.1875
Taro Pharmaceuticals Ind	5.375	+0.125
Tat Technologies	1.5625	0
Technomatox Technologies	13.375	-0.625
Teva	41.625	-1.09375
Top Image Systems	4.625	+0.125
Top Image Systyms Warrant	0.40625	0
Tower Semiconductor	7.0625	+0.125
TTI Team Telecom Intl Ltd	7.75	-0.25
TVG Technologies	0.65625	+0.0625
TVG Tech A	0.125	0
TVG Tech B	0.1875	+0
TVG Tech C	0.15625	+0
Vocaltec	11.625	-0.125
Wiz Tec Solutions	16.0625	-0.4375
Zoran Corporation	18	+0

NYSE

Amdocs	24	-1.375
Blue Square	11.9375	0
D.S.P. Communications	15.125	+0.25
Electric	13.25	+0
First Israel Fund	11.8125	+0.1875
FEC Israeli Economic Corp	29.125	+0
Koor	18.8125	-0.4375
Simula Inc	5.75	-0.26
Super-Sol Ltd	12.8125	0
Tadiran	8	-
Tefron Ltd	8	+0

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 25-FEB-99)

LONDON

Batm Advanced	215.5	+14.5
Dmatek Ltd	28.25	+0
Pilat	13.5	+0
S.E.A. Multimedia		

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 25-FEB-99)



NEW YORK

Aeza	51.5	-1.375
AMP Inc.	53.125	-0.1875
AMR Corp	56.1875	-1.3125
ASA	16	+0.0625
Abbott Labs	46.25	+0.5
Advanced Micro	18.125	-0.4375
Aetna Life	78.6875	-0.5
Affiliated Publ	16.125	0
Allac	45.125	-0.1875
Air Prods	31.8125	+0.0625
Alberto-Culv B	24.3125	+0.125
Albertson's	54.125	-0.375
Alcan Aluminum	24.0625	+0.8125
Allied Signal	42.5	+0.1875
Alcoa	82.25	-0.75
Amazon	125	+14.5625
Amerada Hess	44.8125	+0.875
Amer Brands	30.9375	+0.125
Amer El Power	41.625	-0.5
Amer Express	107.875	+0.1875
Amer Genl Corp	72.125	-1.625
Amer Greeting	23.0625	-0.8125
Amer Home Pr	58.9375	-0.3125
Amer Int'l	112	-2
Amer Natl Ins	73.5	+0
Amer Power Conv	37.375	-2.125
Amer Stores	31.875	+0
Amer T & T	64.5	-0.0625
Amer West Hldg	17.875	-0.375
Ameritech	64.875	-0.625
Ametek Inc	16.75	-0.125
Amgen	126.75	-0.25
Amoco	-	-
Analog Devices	27.0625	-1.3125
Andrew Corp	15.4375	-0.25
Anheuser-Busch	75.4375	+2.1875
Aon Corp	58.125	+0.625
Apple Computer	36.9375	-0.5
Applied Magnetics	4.125	-0.125
Applied Materials	63.75	-4.5
Archer Daniels	15.125	-0.3125
Armco	4.8125	+0.0625
Armstrong World	50	-0.1875
Asarco	14.0625	+0.1875
Ascend	74.5625	-1
Ashland Coal	10.5875	+0
Ashland Oil	44	-0.0625
Atlantic Energy	21.125	+0.125
Atlantic Richfld	85.1875	+0.625
Auto Data Pro	40.3125	-0.75
Autodesk	41.0625	-1
Avery Dennison	52.875	-0.75
Avnet Inc	40.6875	-1.0625
Avon Products	43.375	+0.375
-	-	-
Barnes Corp	5.75	0
Baker Hughes	18.3125	+0.375
Ball Corp	40	+0.0625
Baltimore Gas	25.625	-0.1875
Banc One Corp	52	+1
Bandag	31.375	-0.4375
BankAmerica	54.625	+0.6875
Bank of Boston	40.5625	-0.0625
Bank of New Yk	34.625	-0.4375
Bankers Tst NY	85.9375	-0.125
Barnes & Noble	28.75	-1.25
Battle Mount Gd	3.25	+0
Bausch & Lomb	39.5	-0.5625
Baxter Intl	69.81	-0.5625
Beckton Dickinson	33.5	-1.3125
Bed Bath & Bynd	29	-0.4375
Bell Atlantic	57.6875	-0.875
Bell Industries	11.125	-0.125
BellSouth	46.1875	-1.375
HA Belo Corp	17.6875	+0.125
Beneficial Corp	19.75	0
Bethleherm Steel	9.25	+0
Beverly Entpr	5.125	-0.1875
Biomet	36.5	-0.8125
Black & Decker	48.375	+0.3125
Boeing	35	-0.625
Boise Cascade	29.6875	+0.0625
Books a Million	11.3125	+0.3125
Borden Inc	20.8125	+0.1875
Bowater Inc	41.25	+0.25
Briggs & Stratn	48.625	-0.5
Bristl Myrs Sqb	127.563	-1.625
Brt Airwys ADR	7.3.5	-2.75
Brt Steel ADR	19.825	+0.0625
Brt Telecom	175.25	-4.6875
Brown Group	15	-0.1875
Brown & Sharpe	7.375	+0.0625
Browning Ferris	30.625	+0.3125
Brunswick	21.1875	+0.375
Burlington Nthn	34	+0.375
Burlington Res	32.9375	+1.125
-	-	-
CBS Inc	39.9375	-0.5
CMS Energy Corp	41.5	-0.625
CSX Corporation	39.5	-0.4375
Cabot Corp	34.3125	-0.0625
Campbell Soup	40.4375	-0.5625
Canadian Pac	18.5625	-0.125
Capital Cts ABC	51.9375	-0.3125
Capsread	4.875	+0.0625
Caremarkrx Corp	21.375	+0.25
Carnival Corp	45.625	+0.6875
Carolina Pwr Lt	39.875	+0.3125
Carpenter Tech	28	-0.25
Caterpillar	45.6875	-0.3125
Centex Corp	36.25	-1.75
Central & SW	24.6875	-0.25
Cendian	71.0625	-3.625
Champion Intl	36	-0.125
Chmg Shoppes	3.25	-0.125
Chase Manhattan	79.5	+0.6875
Chevron Corp	79.5	+0.1875
Chiquita Brands	8.3125	+0.0625
Cholestec	2.625	-0.375
Chubb Corp	61	-0.3125
Cisco	98.5	-1.4375
Cleved Cliffs	37.1875	+1.125
Clorox	119.063	-3.75
Coastal Corp	31.5625	-0.25
Coca Cola	64.25	+1.4375
Coca Cola Ent	32.1875	-0.0625
Colgate Palmolv	85.25	-0.8125
Comcast Corp A	68.75	-4.125
Compaq	41.375	-1.0625
Compute Ass Int	42.875	-0.875
Compuser Sci	67.4375	-1.6875
Conagra	30.3125	-0.5625
Cons Edison	47	+0
Cons Freightmys	42.5	+0
Cons Nat Gas	55.125	-0.3125
Cooper Inds	43	-0.6875
Coors (Adolph)	57.9375	+1.9375
Corning Inc	54	+0.6875

	LAST	CHANGE*
Crane	27.4375	-0.75
Crompton Knowles	18.3125	+0.375
Crown Cork Seal	27.9375	+0
Cummins Engine	41.1875	-0.5625
Curtiss-Wright	37.875	+0.1875
Cypress Semicon	9.9375	+0.1875
Cyprus Mineral	11.4375	+0.1875
Cytec Indust.	26.6875	+0.125
-	-	-
Daimlerchrysle	86	-4.9375
DQE	38.25	-0.1875
Dallas Semi	26.625	+0.25
Dana Corp	39.125	-1.625
Data General	14	-0.9375
Dayton Hudson	62.9375	+0
De Beers	17.3125	+0.6875
Deere	32.6	-0.9375
Dell Computers	81.75	-1.5
Delta Air Lines	59.825	-1.375
Deluxe Corp	34.25	-0.3125
Detroit Edison	39.375	-0.4375
Dial Corp Del	26.9375	+0.1875
Diebold Inc	38.625	-1.625
Dillard Dep St	25	-0.25
Disney (Walt)	34.5	-0.5625
Dominion Res	39.4375	+0.0625
Donelley (RR)	34.375	-0.0625
Dover Corp	33.375	-0.375
Dow Chemicals	97.6875	+1
Dow Jones	47.0625	+0.625
Duke Power	57.1875	-0.625
Dun & Bradst	35.3125	+2.5
Du Pont	53.1875	-0.0625
-	-	-
E G & G Corp	27.125	+0.0625
Eastern Ents	38.3125	-0.125
Eastman Kodak	66.875	-1.5625
Eaton Corp	68.5625	+1.625
Eggihead Com	16.5938	-0.09375
Emerson Elec	58.0625	-0.75
Engelhard Corp	18.1875	-0.125
Enron Corp	56	-2
Entergy Corp	26.5	-0.625
Enzo Biochem	10.8125	-0.1875
Equitex Inc	37.5625	-0.4375
Ericsson	26.6875	-0.0625
Ethyl Corp	4.8125	-0.1875
Exide Corp	15.375	-0.1875
Exxon	67.3125	-0.53125
-	-	-
FMC Corp	51.625	+0.0625
FPL Group	51.75	-1.25
Fedders Corp	5.625	-0.0625
Federal Expss	94.25	+0.8125
Federal Mogul	49	-1.3125
Fed Nat Mtge	66.625	-0.625
First Union	53.375	+1.75
Fruit of the Loom	13.0625	+1.3125
1st Union Fthy	4.25	+0.1875
Fleet Finl Grp	42.5	+0
Fleetwd Enterp	32.375	-0.1875
Fleming Cos Ok	8.0625	+0
Florida Prog	40.1875	-0.3125
Fluor Corp	33.75	-0.75
Food Lion Inc	9.8125	+0.1875
Ford Motor	59.5625	+0.0625
Fortune Brands	30.25	+0.25
Foster Wheeler	12.1875	-0.125
Furniture Brands	21.125	+0.125
-	-	-
Gateway 2000	80.125	+1
GATX Corp	34.625	-0.375
GTE Corp	64.5	-1.6875
Gannett	64.8125	-0.375
Gap Inc Del	62.875	+0.125
Genicorp	19.75	+0.0625
Gen Am Invest	30.9375	-0.1875
Gen Dynamics	59.875	+1
Gen Electric	100.375	-0.625
Gen Mills	80.9375	-0.6875
Gen Motors	83.625	-1.375
Gen Motors H	47.5	-0.5
Gen Public Util	40.4375	-1.0625
Gen Reinsurnce	-	-
Gen DataComm	2.3125	+0
Genuine Parts	30.125	-0.1875
Georgia Pac	71.0625	-0.625
Germany Fund	13.25	-0.1875
Gillette	53.4375	-0.5625
Glaxo ADR	65.125	-0.1875
Golden W Finl	93.6875	-0.6875
Goodrich (BF)	33.4375	-0.5625
Goodyear Tire	46.375	-0.8125
Grace (W&R)	13.5625	+0.5625
Grainger (WW)	44.625	+0.1875
Grt Atl Pac Tea	20.625	-0.25
Grt Central Mine	2.5875	+0
Gulf Canada Res	2.3125	-0.0625
-	-	-
Halliburton	28.9375	+0.6875
Hanna (MA)	11.25	+0.4375
Harcourt	45	-0.3125
Harley Davidson	56.875	-0.75
Harnischfeger	7.375	-0.0625
Harrah's Ent	18.9375	-0.5
Harris Corp	31.125	-0.75
Hasbro Corp	27.8125	-0.1875
Hartmax	4.5	+0
Hasbro	37.3125	+0.4375
HBO & Co	-	-
Health Care Ppt	29.25	+0.5625
Hecla Mining	3.75	+0.25
Heinz (HJ)	55.375	-0.9375
Helix Technol	21.1875	-0.9375
Hmrsln & Payne	18.4375	+0.0625
Hercules	39.3125	+0.375
Hershey Foods	63.0625	-0.1875
Hewlett Packard	71.1875	+0.4375
Hilton Hotels	15.6875	-0.125
Hitach Int	2.90625	+0.09375
Hollinger	12.0625	+0.1875
Home Depot	59.8125	+0.1875
Homestake	9.375	+0
Honeywell	70.625	-1.625
Hormel (Geo)	35.5625	-1.25
Household Intl	39.25	-1.375
Houston Inds	-

هكذا من الأعلى

More than a token victory?

More parties than ever realize that they *should* have women in realistic slots. But good intentions aren't enough to dramatically change the face of the next Knesset, as Calev Ben-David learns

In 1992, Masha Lubelsky was voted into the Knesset as No. 18 on the Labor Party list, the second-highest-ranked woman (after Ora Namir) in the party. Lubelsky, secretary-general of Na'amat, the Histadrut-affiliated women's organization, seemed poised on the verge of a surging political career.

But after serving for four years as a deputy minister Lubelsky failed to get a realistic spot on the party list in the next Labor primaries, and lost her Knesset seat in the 1996 elections.

You won't find Lubelsky in Labor anymore. The woman who built her reputation over decades as a Na'amat activist is now sitting "in the pink," so to speak, in the No. 3 spot on cosmetics queen Pnina Rosenblum's fledgling party's list.

And, she claims, she is happy to be there.

"It's very important to me to finally be in a party headed by a woman, a party which is seriously dedicated to having a real 50-50 division in its representation," says Lubelsky. "After having gotten to know Pnina well, I'm very impressed with her commitment to women's issues and genuine equality."

And what of her former party?

"I don't like to criticize Labor, but sometimes it seems they think talking about the rights of women makes up for actually doing something about it. They're too infatuated with ex-generals, and male ones at that.

"Why is it that Matan Vilna'i can take off his uniform and walk into a safe seat, but a brigadier-general like Yehudit Ben-Natan [the recently retired head of the IDF Women's Corps] was rejected by Labor voters in the primaries?"

Lubelsky's frustration is easy to understand. Thirty-eight years ago, the number of women MKs peaked at 12, 10 percent of the Knesset. In 1996, long after the feminist revolution reached these shores, only nine women won Knesset seats, just 7.5% of the total.

Although former prime minister Golda Meir – once described by David Ben-Gurion as "the only real man in my cabinet" – is often held up as some kind of example of Israeli egalitarianism, she was in fact one of only six women to ever serve as a minister, and the only one to ever break into the upper cabinet echelons.

WHY are women in the political sphere here lagging behind many of their peers in the US and Western Europe?

"The primary reason is that security is still the paramount issue here," says Prof. Alice Shalvi, founder of the Israel Women's Network. "And women are perceived, especially given their lack of opportunity in the army, as 'soft' on security issues."

Another, newer, factor working against women, says Shalvi, is the rise in power of the haredi parties.

"It's inconceivable that Shas, for example, would ever put a woman in a leadership position."

Yet the situation in the upcoming elections, adds Shalvi, is not all bleak.

"There's definitely been a change in the awareness of the major parties of the need to have women on the list. This was certainly reflected in some of the primaries and selection process, even this time in the National Religious Party.

"Unfortunately, given the especially unpredictable nature of these elections, and the complications involved in the 'reserved slot' system which helped many of these women get their electoral slots, it's hard to say what gains in Knesset representation – if any – will come out of it."

Certainly women gained in the Likud, where they actually placed better than the four slots on the list (at 10, 20, 30 and 35) reserved for them.

In addition to moving up its two current female MKs (Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Naomi Blumenthal) into the top 10 of the party list, sure to join them in the next Knesset is Tzippi Livni, who won the No. 17 slot. Two student activists, Gila Gamliel (25) and Liat Rabner (29), have a shot at joining them.

"I think we benefited by the fact that the Likud already had two women in the Knesset who proved themselves during the past few years every bit as capable as the men," says Livni, a lawyer who headed the government's privatization drive as director of the Government Companies Authority. "And I think women in general benefit from the Likud's willingness to bring in new faces," Livni adds.

IN contrast is the situation in Labor, whose women candidates are blaming the party's complicated "reserved slot" system for doing them as much harm as good.

Dalia Itzik, for example, has said she believes she would have actually gotten more votes had many Labor voters not simply assumed she would easily win the first slot (No. 9) reserved for a woman.

And when Ehud Barak finishes compiling his One Israel list, there is concern that Labor will do no better than return its current female contingent of Itzik, Yael Dayan and Sofa Landver to the Knesset.

Seen as especially problematic was the condition that the reserved slot for a woman in each 10-member grouping was automatically canceled if any female candidate on her own succeeded in scoring higher than it.

Take, for example, the case of Prof. Yuli Tamir, who the morning after the Labor primaries was already being hailed as one of the party's new faces after a counting of partial election results showed her in 25th spot.

But after it became clear that Landver would be claiming the 19th "immigrant" slot instead of Adisu Messele, it created a domino effect among the female candidates that pushed Tamir out of contention, to the 35th slot.

"I think it would have been better for Labor to have simply reserved two slots for women in the top 10 – like the Center Party did – and cancel all the reserved slots on the list after that," says Tamir. "There was a certain complacency in Labor regarding really putting women in the top slots this time, and we've suffered for it."

Despite the complications sometimes involved when slots are reserved, there really is no alternative to them in helping women move ahead, asserts Nehama Ronen, the former director-general of the Environment Ministry – the only woman to serve as a ministry director-general in this government.

Along with Dalia Rabin-Pelosoff, Ronen is one of those two women chosen for the Center Party's top 10.

"Perhaps in one or two more elections, after enough women have been placed in the kind of positions they need to prove themselves, we won't need [reserved slots] anymore," she says.

"Actually, I'd like to see the system expanded beyond election lists. In some European countries the government is obligated to have a certain percentage of women not only in the legislature, but in top public administration positions – like ministry directors-general."

ONE person certainly satisfied with her reserved slot is the National Religious Party's Gila Finkelstein, who came in 11th in the party's central committee vote for the Knesset list, but was bumped up to the eighth spot reserved for a female candidate.

Although pundits give Finkelstein, an English teacher, only an outside shot at making the Knesset, she sees her victory as having a wider significance.

"This is a reflection of changes within the national-religious camp," she says, "a feeling that women have more to contribute in leadership positions, and that issues like education and social welfare, that are particularly important to families, have to be addressed just as much as the Land of Israel.

"It was especially nice for me, to win this slot just as Purim is coming up, with its wonderful story of Queen Esther showing what a woman in a leadership position can do," says the effusive Finkelstein.

Less impressed with Finkelstein's victory was another religious woman, Bella Freund, who made headlines seven years ago after stopping an angry mob from attacking an Arab who had just stabbed two boys in Jerusalem's marketplace, and has since been active in promoting religious-secular dialogue.

"I admire the national-religious camp," says the haredi Freund. "But if they were really serious about advancing women they would have put one in a more realistic slot than No. 8."

THIS week Freund joined with sociology professor Esther Hertzog and Jerusalem city council member Ofra Meirson to found a new women's party, Yitzug Shaveh (Equal Representation).

"I had offers of slots in the past from major parties," says Freund, "but I didn't want to join a framework of 'masculine politics' where there isn't real equality for the women."

And what about Pnina Rosenblum's party?

"That's the party of Pnina, not of women," says Freund.

And what about Meretz, the party traditionally viewed as the banner carrier of women's rights?

"They are bragging about the fact that they have four women in their top 10," says Hertzog, No. 1 on the Yitzug Shaveh list.

"But look where they're placed. The first woman in Meretz [MK Anat Maor] is only at the No. 5 slot. This isn't the same party that once had strong feminists like Shulamit Aloni and Marsha Friedman at the top of the list."

The one woman newcomer in Meretz sure to enter the next Knesset on the party's sixth slot is Zehava Gal-On, director of the International Center for Peace.

Gal-On admits some dissatisfaction with the placing of women on the Meretz list, saying "I would prefer we had a system like that in Rosenblum's party, where the slots are alternated between genders from the top of the list."

Still, she contends, a women's party like Yitzug Shaveh isn't the answer.

"For me women's rights in Israel still can't be isolated from other issues, like fighting for peace issues, religious freedom and the equality of Arabs and other minority groups."

As for the success of other parties like Likud in putting women in the top of the list, Gal-On says, "I make a distinction between those parties that simply put women in top slots, and those who are ideologically committed to advancing women's issues.

"For that matter, I'm not impressed by women who succeed on their own, but don't make a point of helping others advance. I was disappointed, for example, to read an interview in which Dalia Rabin-Pelosoff made a point of saying she 'wasn't a feminist.' I think all the women in Israeli politics need to realize that feminism doesn't mean bra-burning anymore, but simply striving for the equality that women deserve in any sphere."

ONE matter on which all the women interviewed for this article agreed was the possibility that Israel is now finally ready for its first female prime minister since Golda, with several even mentioning Limor Livnat as a likely contender in upcoming elections.

"She'd make an excellent prime minister," says Ronen.

"Would there be segments of the population who wouldn't vote for her because she's a woman? Of course. But any male candidate nowadays also will also be automatically rejected by parts of the electorate because of their stands."

In the meantime, women will have to be satisfied with perhaps a few extra seats in the next Knesset and a token victory – that there was, at least, serious lip service paid to their cause during this election campaign.

As for the future?

"You know," says the NRP's Finkelstein, "that the sages said that after the Messiah comes, everything in the world will be turned upside down. So maybe in the next millennium, it will the be the men on the bottom and the women who'll be on top."



Likud's Tzippi Livni: I think women in general benefit from the Likud's willingness to bring in new faces. (Ariel Jerozolimski)



Meretz's Zehava Gal-On: I distinguish between parties that put women in top slots, and those committed to women's issues. (Oded Milshtein)



Labor's Prof. Yuli Tamir: There was a certain complacency in Labor regarding putting women in top slots. (Israel Sun)



NRP's Gila Finkelstein: It was nice to win this slot around Purim. Queen Esther shows what a woman in leadership can do.

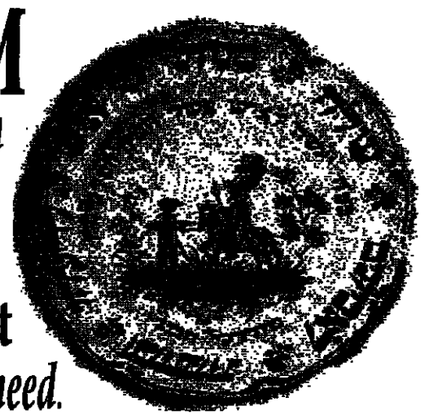


Masha Lubelsky of Pnina Rosenblum's party: It's very important to me to finally be in a party headed by a woman. (Brian Hendler)



The Center Party's Nehama Ronen: Perhaps in one or two elections... we won't need reserved spots [for women] anymore. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

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Elections

Chutzpah is what Asad's got

The commanding Druse with an outstanding military career hopes to be in the top 10 of the Center Party list. Amal Asad tells Dan Williams what makes him run

Ask around the army about Amal Asad's 26 years of combat service, and you will hear many accolades, offset by one unsettling rumor: that he once threw an enemy prisoner out of a helicopter.

Asad, 43, and a new contender in Yitzhak Mordechai's Center Party, laughs this off.

"In 1981 I was in the Jordan Valley," he explains, "and my unit captured some infiltrators who had left a satchel of explosives on the border. I took one of them up in a helicopter to locate the site.

"During the flight, I pointed outside and said, 'Long way down, isn't it?' He blanched and shrank away from me – but that's as bad as it got."

War stories are often embellished. However, the barbarity falsely ascribed to Asad by the rumor is salient because, for many Israelis, it might well seem credible.

As a brigadier-general in the paratroops, Asad was one of the two highest-ranking Druse officers in the IDF until his unexpected decision to retire last month. He is fully aware of the perception, common to both Israelis and Arabs, that Druse soldiers are fierce, ruthless – and cruel.

Despite the Israeli preoccupation with military prowess, this popular image of the Druse fighter is as much condemnation as commendation.

According to Asad, it is a tacit statement of Israeli paternalism toward the Druse, who are frequently viewed as a backward Semitic tribe, redeemed only by their loyal service to the state.

Asad does not tolerate this prejudice.

"Sure, Druse soldiers are brave," he avers, "because our religion teaches us not to fear death. But this doesn't mean every Druse should serve in the infantry or the Border Police."

In fact, Asad favors greater numbers of Druse serving in non-combat roles in the army and disbanding the IDF's Druse Platoon altogether, so that ultimately Druse soldiers integrate fully with their Jewish counterparts. Asad hopes to achieve real equity for Israeli Druse and redress years of governmental and societal discrimination against them.

"We should not have to beg for our rights as equal citizens. We should not have to fight and die in the army to get what is rightfully ours. It's time for us to be regarded at eye level," he says firmly.

At a meeting of Druse academics and community representatives two weeks ago, Daliat al-Carmel council head Ramzi Halabi put it this way: "We need Israeli chutzpah – and that's what Amal Asad's got."

IRONICALLY, although Asad repeatedly refers to his Druse identity, he does not enjoy being called a "Druse politician." He asserts that he is "one hundred percent Israeli," and that it is unfair to circumscribe him with an ethnic label.

Asad says he had long contemplated moving into politics. At first he considered joining the Likud, but his longtime friend Amnon Lipkin-Shahak convinced him otherwise.

Naysayers are quick to suggest that nepotism was the main reason for Asad's immediate alliance with the Center, and that this is characteristic of the new party's style.

"I call the Center Party the 'circus party,' " says Ayoub Kara, a Druse member of the Likud Party list. "It's basically a bunch of buddies who have come together with no plan other than to bring down [Prime Minister] Binyamin Netanyahu."

Both Kara and his Druse counterpart in the Labor Party, Sallah Tarif, are careful in their criticism of Asad, making a point of commending him for his military service and claiming to be his friends from childhood. Yet it is clear that they regard him as something of an upstart.

"With all due respect, he needs real experience in the field [of politics] before he can be taken seriously," says Tarif.

Is Asad's role in the Center Party that of token ethnic representative - the mandatory Druse candidate needed to maximize the potential voter base?

Asad rejects this notion altogether. "In five years' time, I intend to be an influential and beneficial member of the Israeli government," he says. "I will not be a 'token Druse.'"

In Asad's defense, the Center Party already had a Druse member prior to his arrival, Salaam Wahaby of Daliat al-Carmel.

WHEN asked to respond to the invidious comments by his fellow Druse politicians, Asad declines politely. "I am not interested in 'performance' politics," he says. "I want to concentrate on action."

Last Friday, for example, he held a lunch meeting with town representatives in Sajur, followed by a lecture to 500 Julis youths in the evening.

In his home town of Usfiya one weekend this month, most passersby stopped to shake Asad's hand and wish him well. Although Druse culture is heavily patriarchal and thus strong men – whatever their political stripe – are always well received, this attention is surprising given that until very recently, Asad spent most of his adult life away on military assignments. "I'm a legend," he explains with a mild smile.

Despite the chutzpah of this claim, it cannot be refuted. Asad, tall and commanding without being overbearing, has had a remarkable military career. After studying in a Jewish high school in Haifa, he joined the paratroops, and was wounded in the Yom Kippur War.

He distinguished himself as an officer, and in 1979 was chosen to command the honor guard that greeted US President Jimmy Carter when he arrived in Israel to celebrate the Camp David peace accord.

Years later, Asad met Carter again while on training sabbatical at Fort Benning, Georgia. Asad recalls the period fondly.

"The local Jewish community," he says, "was always inviting me to speak. They were thrilled to discover there was such a thing as a Druse combat officer in the IDF!"

Fame found Asad when he served as brigade commander in the Jenin region during the intifada. Although he was responsible for the capture or killing of some 200 wanted Palestinian militants, he says he did so with the minimum amount of force necessary.

Under his two-year command, Asad says, he never once placed a curfew or closure on the townspeople.

Asad says his lifelong hawkish stance on security changed when his brother Wafa was shot dead by Hamas militants while on reserve duty in Gaza, on the same day the Oslo Accord was signed. The confluence of events made Asad rethink his attitude towards the Palestinians.

"I realized that you have to respect a people fighting their own war," he says, "as long as it is just that, a war against soldiers rather than civilians."

Asad's hard-won sense of statesmanship was further developed in his next military appointment as deputy commander of the IDF's Lebanon Liaison Unit in the security zone, where he was responsible for maintaining good relations with the loyal Christian populace, often embattled in the face of Hizbullah hostilities.

"I believed back then, as I do now, that the best way to command is by showing respect," says Asad, "To everyone. At all times."

WHEN asked if his IDF background might be a burden rather than a blessing in politics, especially given the preponderance of ex-generals in the Center Party, Asad says:

"On the contrary. I think military command experience prepared me very well. The Israeli political scene is fraught with hostilities and conflicts, and a politician needs to make split-second decisions. An army man is used to such situations."

Asad also rejects the argument that ex-military politicians tend to be more intransigent when it comes to peace negotiations. He cites the fact that across the political spectrum, from Peace Now on the Left to Moledet on the Right, former high-ranking IDF officers play important roles.

When it comes to his specific views, however, Asad is more reticent. Regarding the peace process, he maintains there is no significant difference between the major parties.

"It's all going in the same direction," he says, "It's just a matter of different styles of negotiation."

On talks with Syria, especially the unilateral decision by Tarif last year to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad, he says, "If such moves are beneficial, then I welcome them. However, if they are just political showboating, then I'm not interested."

When asked about non-security issues such as the economy or education, Asad does not offer a statement. "I'll deal with those issues when the time comes," he says.

In fact, so far in his campaign Asad has eschewed serious political discourse in favor of simple, earnest self-promotion. He admits that many of the showy trappings of political life do not quite suit him – he still feels uncomfortable in front of cameras – but he accepts that such techniques are necessary to achieve public recognition.

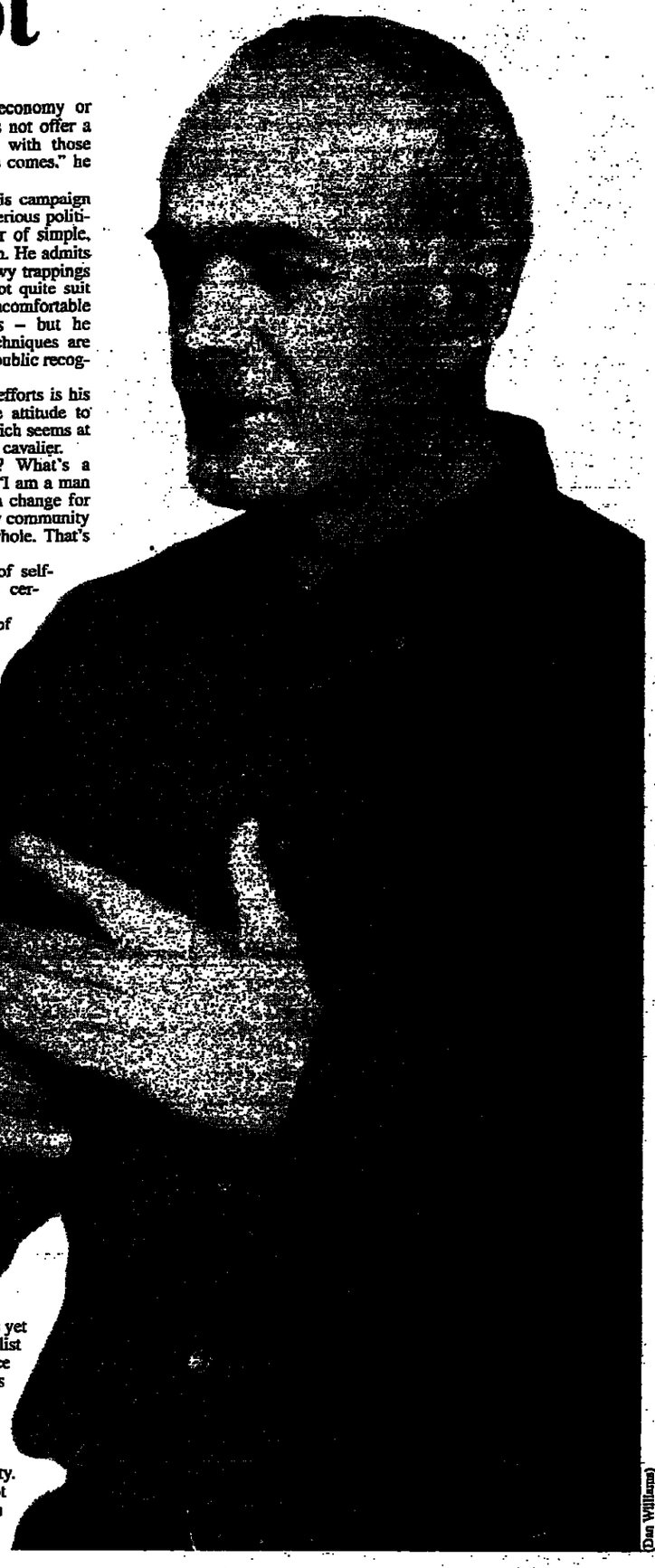
Facilitating Asad's efforts is his disarmingly reductive attitude to political decorum, which seems at once both sincere and cavalier.

"What is politics? What's a politician?" he asks. "I am a man who wants to make a change for the better, both for my community and for Israel as a whole. That's it."

Asad is not short of self-confidence, and that certainly helps.

"On the strength of my activities, I hope to win a good portion of Druse votes for my party," he says. An estimated 60,000 Israeli Druse vote.

Tarif responds mordantly: "If he gets 2,500 votes, then he can consider himself successful."


(Dan Williams)

The Center Party has yet to decide on a top-10 list of candidates. A source close to the party says that Asad's prospects may be jeopardized in the wake of Yitzhak Mordechai assuming leadership of the party. Mordechai does not necessarily regard him with the same favor as does Shahak.

But Asad is unperturbed by such reports. "If I find I am dissatisfied with the way the [Center Party] is going, I'll leave," he declares, adding, "I left the army on short notice, and I can do the same thing again."

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Elections 99

On Center stage: How (not) to hatch a list

In the next two weeks, the four leaders of the Center Party will huddle together to handpick the candidates for its Knesset list. Herb Keinon looks at the crowded center



Some 2,377 Likud central committee members drew up the party's Knesset slate three weeks ago in a colorful, if raucous expression of limited democracy. About 100,000 Labor supporters selected their Knesset list two weeks ago in much wider democratic feast. And this week, some 1,000 National Religious Party central committee members cast ballots for their party's MKs.

As for the new, yet unnamed and un-platformed Center Party, its list will most likely be drawn up within the next two weeks by the four party leaders: Yitzhak Mordechai, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor and Ronni Milo.

In the best-case scenario, the four will cloister themselves in a room, nourished by surveys showing the popularity of each prospective MK. Then, based on each candidate's popularity in the various polls, they will decide who should be placed where.

In the worst-case scenario, the foursome will sit around a table and play a high-stakes political game of "one for me, one for you."

According to one person closely involved in the process, who did not want to be identified, this version of eeny-meeny-miny-mo goes something like this: Yitzhak Mordechai is No.1 on the list, and he is to the Right. Shahak is 2, and to the Left. Meridor, No. 3, is on the Right, while Milo, No. 4, leans Left.

The fifth spot will have to be someone a bit to the Right, since the sixth position has already gone to Dalia Rabin-Pelosoff, who leans Left, and the seventh to Nehama Ronen, the former Tsomet director general of the environment ministry, whose tendencies are Right.

The eighth position will have to go to someone to the Left, the ninth to the Right, and on and on and on.

TO complicate matters further, each of the four leaders will be bucking for his own personal favorites, the source said.

For instance, former foreign ministry director-general Uri Savir – a Shahak man – has his eye on the No. 5 slot, as does Third Way MK Alex Lubotzky, whose patron is Meridor, who, [illegible] former Tel Aviv mayor for his anti-haredi positions, and the right wing of the party isn't nuts about Savir, one of the Oslo agreement's architects.

Besides, Savir is in the Shahak camp, as is Rabin-Pelosoff, who is already in the sixth slot.

Can Shahak have three people, including himself, in the prestigious Top Ten?

Meanwhile, former Gesher MK David Magen is slowly emerging as a compromise No. 5. He is a Milo supporter, and has the added benefit of being of Moroccan extraction.

Ironically, the Center Party, even with Mordechai as its head, has started to worry a bit about appearing overly Ashkenazi. For instance, if Savir or Lubotzky were to win the fifth slot, that would mean that after Mordechai, there isn't another Sephardi candidate until at least the eighth slot – none too wise a maneuver for a party whose only clearly stated goals thus far are to bridge Right and Left, religious and secular, Ashkenazi and Sephardi.

NEITHER the party's newly appointed official spokesman, former Israel Television newsman Menashe Raz, or potential candidates such as Labor MK Nissim Zvilli and Meimad activist Yehuda Ben-Meir, have much of an idea about the mechanics of the selection process.

"To an extent, we just have to trust the leaders to make the right choices," said Zvilli, who has not had any kind of "job interview" with the foursome, and doesn't know what their criteria are.

He said it would have been preferable to have an open primary, where anyone who wanted to vote for the list could, after paying a minimal fee – but there was simply too little time to organize it.

Asked whether he was competing for a spot, Ben-Meir said "competing" in this context was a bit of a misnomer.

"Nobody is running," said the former NRP deputy foreign minister. "The leadership just has to put together a list. Since there are no party institutions yet, the four will have to sit and decide – there is no other way."

Neither Zvilli nor Ben-Meir would say whether they see themselves in the running. According to Raz, there is "a large gallery of serious people" who can all be worthy candidates, and "somehow, somebody will be left to chance."

The party source quoted earlier said it is not particularly healthy for the party leaders to handpick the candidates.

"This way, all the anger and frustration will be directed at them," he said. "If you look at the other parties, the leadership purposely tried to distance themselves from the selection process in order to avoid the aftershocks later. Here they are completely involved."

RECENT polls show the party garnering between 13 and 15 seats, and that is even before the huge organizational apparatus – each of the four leaders brought his own team of advisers and aides with him – has begun working as a unit.

But even with such sanguine polls, the party is crowded. In addition to the top four, there are five MKs looking for their future on the list: Zvilli, Lubotzky, Magen, Tsomet's Eliezer Zandberg and Labor's Haggai Merom. With Rabin-Pelosoff and Ronen already allocated the sixth and seventh slots, this means that at least one of these MKs, and probably more, won't be in the top ten.

Then there are the other names to take into account – men like Savir and Ben-Meir, as well as Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yoram Yair, former Treasury director-general Shmuel Slavin, and the Druse former deputy commander of IDF forces in Lebanon, retired Brig.-Gen. Amal Asad.

Other names have also been bandied about, such as Jerusalem deputy mayor and Likud Central Committee member Yigal Amedi, a strong Milo supporter who is also of Mizrahi origin. And the party is still missing an immigrant from the former Soviet Union.

Anonymous wannabes, people from all parts of the country, are also flooding the foursome with faxes and telephone calls, saying that they identify with the party's goals, and would like to join the list, not as mere supporters, but as MKs.

OF all the candidates, the two who arouse the most dissension are Savir and Milo – Savir because he is seen as a candidate likely to drive away disgruntled Likud voters who may not be in love with Binyamin Netanyahu but don't necessarily want to marry the architect of Oslo; and Milo, whom some see as too stridently anti-haredi.

That Milo is a bit problematic for the party is ironic, since he was the founding father of the Center Party idea. But one of the party's top strategists, who also did not want to go on the record, said that although Savir and Milo may drive away votes from one sector, they attract voters from another.

"Wherever Mordechai goes," another party insider claimed, "he is constantly asked by traditional voters who would vote for him, 'What about Milo? How can I vote for you with Milo on the list?' He distances more people than he attracts," he noted.

But Milo is very important for the prime ministerial ticket, said the strategist.

"Meretz is not running someone for prime minister," he noted. "Milo can attract people to Mordechai who otherwise would not vote for [the former defense minister], because of Mordechai's close relationship with Ovadia Yosef."

By definition, the strategist said, balance is the raison d'etre of the Center Party.

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Elections

A show of confidence – in himself

MK Azmi Bishara sees no contradiction between praising Hizbullah and running for prime minister, writes **Larry Derfner**

Even after three Israeli soldiers were killed by Hizbullah in south Lebanon on Tuesday, MK Azmi Bishara stood by his statement that Hizbullah was "a brave organization that had taught Israel a lesson – it can have occupation or it can have peace."

Neither was Bishara deterred by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's investigation of whether he broke the law with this utterance. He made it at Saturday's convention of the Democratic National Assembly (Balad), where some 500 Israeli Arab delegates unanimously re-elected him as party chairman.

Bishara's nemeses on the Right, led by MK Michael Kleiner, are trying to get him kicked out of the Knesset race for the remark.

Bishara is facing a two-pronged attack from the Right: Science Minister Michael Eitan and others also want him disqualified for something he's been saying for years – that Israel should not be a Jewish state, but rather a "state of all its citizens," which Eitan and his allies claim is against the law.

Bishara dismisses all this as right-wing electioneering. "It's always convenient for them to have an Arab to attack," he said.

Not only is Bishara confident he will be re-elected to the Knesset, he is still mulling over an idea he first came up with over two years ago: running for prime minister.

THE decision, he said, depends on what the polls and his running mates say.

If Balad doesn't run independently, he noted, the party's running mates on a joint Knesset list could be the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash), or the Islamic Movement, depending on how negotiations turn out.

Bishara, 42, a philosophy instructor at Bir Zeit University, is one of the leading young intellectuals in the Arab world. He is a thoroughly secular Christian, an ex-communist who got his doctorate in East Germany.

Starting out in politics at his Nazareth high school, he later took his share of blows, along with other Arab student activists, from Tzahi Hanegbi's right-wing Castel group at Hebrew University.

In recent years, Bishara's proposal to make Israel a "state of all its citizens" has joined Halacha as a rising ideological challenge to Zionism. The idea has gained wide allegiance among Israeli Arabs, who argue that they can never be anything but second-class citizens in a country that legally calls itself the "Jewish state."

A frequent guest on political talk shows, Bishara has proven a provocative politician and become a favorite target of the Right.

His compliments for Hizbullah, however, crossed the line from provocative to outrageous, prompting the Labor Party to denounce it as a "stupid" remark that Bishara would do well to take back.

Nothing doing.

"What I said about Hizbullah is what I believe," Bishara reiterated in an interview. "It is a patriotic, Lebanese nationalist organization that has been very successful in the so-called armed struggle.

"The struggle against Israeli occupation is legitimate. Hizbullah is not a terrorist organization, it's a resistance movement against occupation.

"They've shown their willingness to sacrifice. They are brave," he insisted.

"What should I say – that they are dirty, filthy, terrorist cowards? I'm not going to join the right-wing's political propaganda machine."

Bishara holds great appeal for Arab intellectuals, and even for some left-wing Jewish ones

About the three Israeli soldiers killed by Hizbullah, Bishara said: "I was very sorry to hear that. I'm very sorry over each young person, Lebanese or Israeli, killed in south Lebanon. I would have to be mad to think it is good for young people to be killed."

Bishara said he sees no contradiction here. He also pointed out that he is by no means a "follower" of Hizbullah. "They are a religious movement – Islamic fundamentalist, probably fanatic," he said.

Asked if he was simply going way beyond the pale – that it was one thing to call for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and a very different thing to laud Hizbullah – Bishara maintained that his moral position was higher than that of MK Yossi Beilin and other Israeli Jews calling for withdrawal. "They are only concerned with calculating the losses in Israeli lives. For me, Lebanese lives have equal value," he said.

WHEN Bishara announced over two years ago that he planned to run for prime minister, Kleiner proposed a bill outlawing all non-Jewish candidates for the post.

The Knesset secretariat, however, determined that the bill was racist and removed it from the agenda.

In the meantime, the Israeli Arab political establishment did not take kindly to this upstart Bishara making a unilateral decision to run for prime minister, and he put the idea on hold. The change in the electoral picture has also undercut the logic behind Bishara's candidacy.

A couple of years ago, when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak were the only declared candidates for the prime ministership, Bishara said his strategy was to force a runoff, and then throw his constituency's support to whichever candidate offered the most to Israeli Arabs.

But there are already four declared candidates for the May 17 election – Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai, Herut Party leader Ze'ev (Benny) Begin, Netanyahu and Barak – and a runoff seems likely.

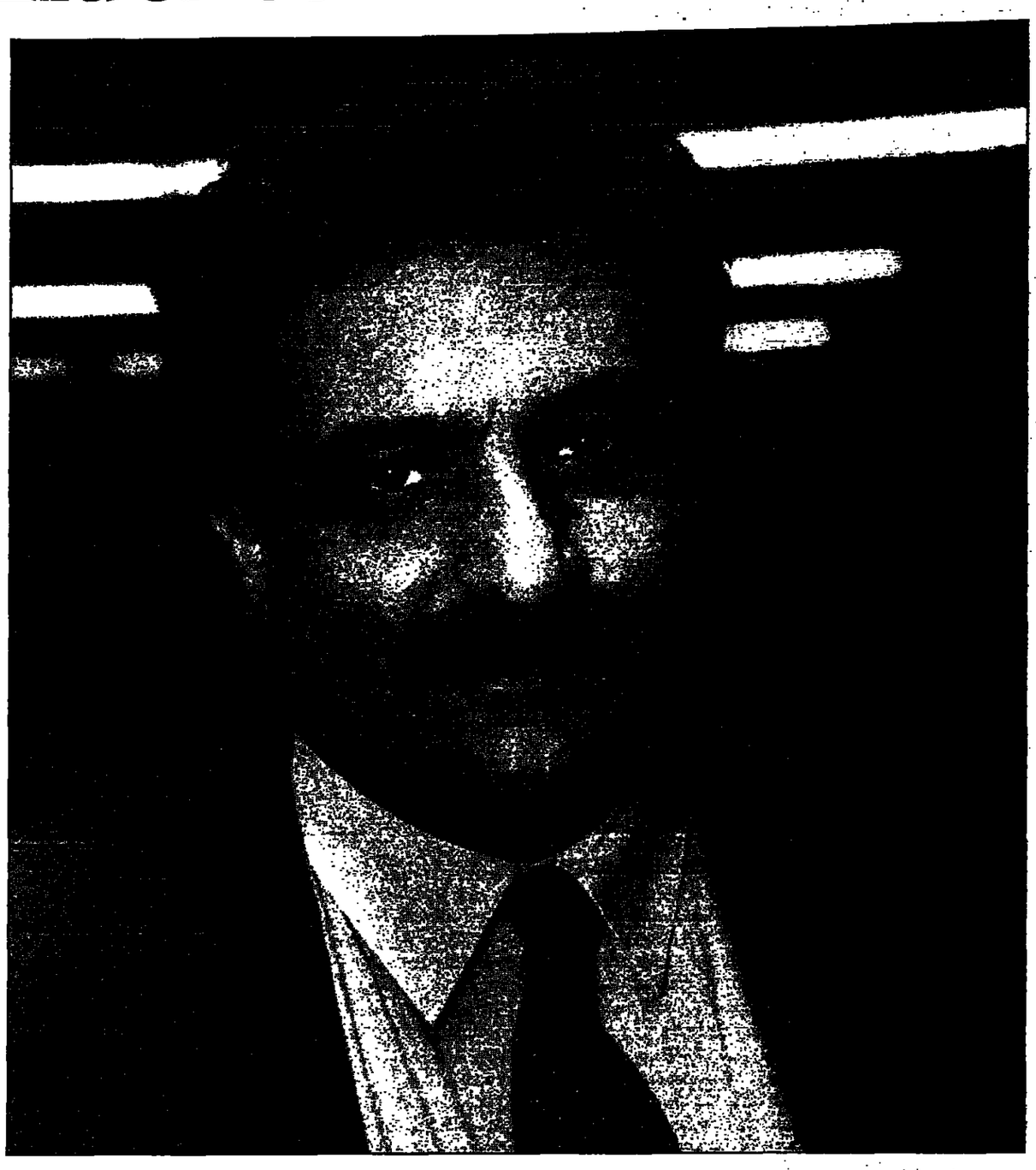
Yet one of Bishara's motivations for contending for the prime ministership hasn't changed: "To show the Labor Party that the Israeli Arab vote isn't in their pocket," he said.

There is still a choice, he maintained – not, as before, between Barak and Netanyahu, but between Barak and Mordechai, and Israeli Arabs should give them an equal hearing.

In the 1996 election, Bishara was one of many thousands of Israeli Arabs who voted a blank slip in the prime minister's race. One reason, he said, was then prime minister Shimon Peres's Grapes of Wrath bombing campaign in Lebanon, another was Labor's "arrogance" in taking the Israeli Arab vote for granted.

This time, though, Bishara said that if he isn't in the race, he will vote for "whoever has the best chance of beating Netanyahu." He denied a radio report that he wants to run for PM to take votes away from Barak and thereby help Mordechai into the runoffs, on the assumption that Mordechai has a better chance of defeating Netanyahu.

"It's too early to tell which candidate has the better chance," he said. "But for now, the polls do show that the strongest candidate in the runoff [Mordechai] won't make it past the first round" because Netanyahu and Barak would finish one-two.



Bishara: 'The struggle against Israeli occupation is legitimate. Hizbullah is not a terrorist organization, it's a resistance movement against occupation. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

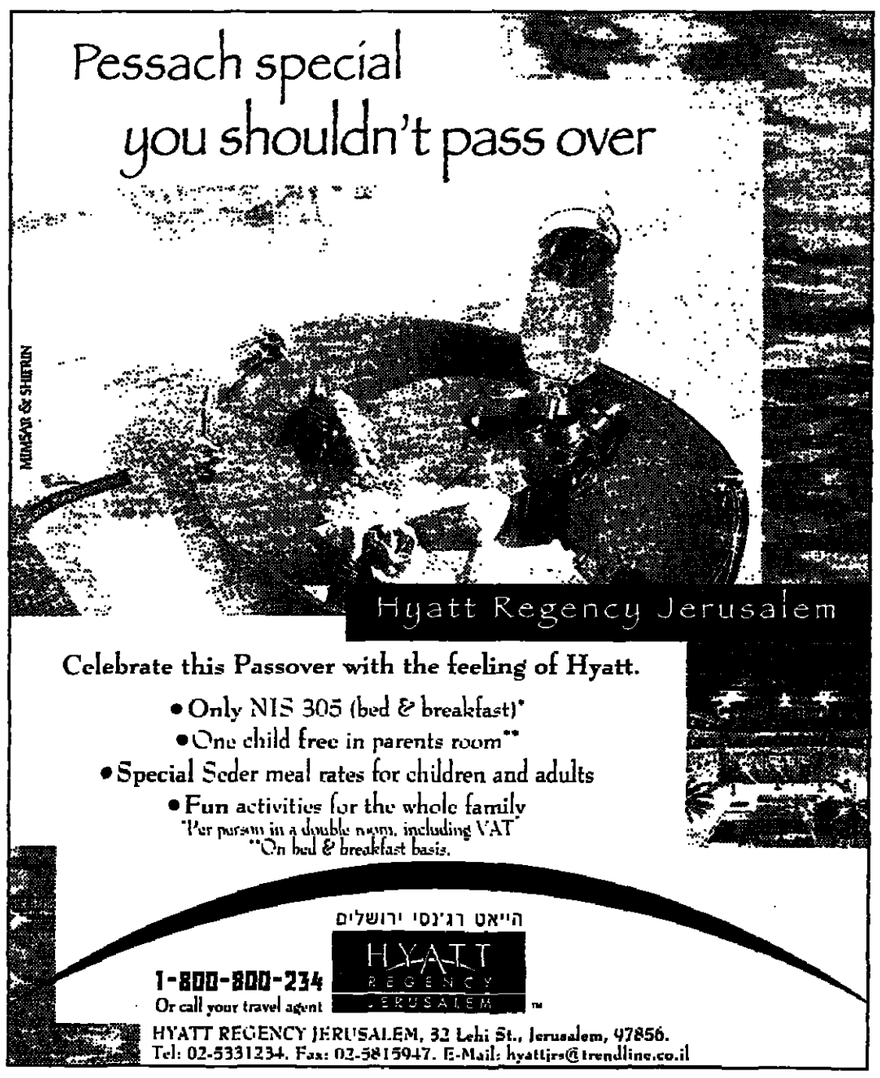
WITH a personal style that offsets intensity with dry humor and his forthright presentation of new, radical ideas, Bishara holds great appeal for Arab intellectuals, and even for some left-wing Jewish ones. Balad's Knesset list is top-heavy with attorneys, doctors and academics.

Arab political rivals have derided Balad as the party of Arab "yuppies." Bishara denied this, saying that while the Knesset list is dominated by highly-educated professionals, the majority of the party's popular support is with the poor and working-class.

Asked how Balad, an emphatically secular, democratic party, could consider running together with the Islamic Movement, Bishara had a whole series of answers: "On issues having to do with Arab civil rights, we almost always vote on the same side... We ran in the last election on a joint list with the Communist Party [Hadash], and they're not a democratic party, either.

"Without blurring our differences with the Islamic Movement, the dialogue on the direction for the Arab minority in Israel should continue... If you choose the option of confrontation with the Islamic Movement, you radicalize them, whereas debate and dialogue have a moderating effect on them."

Bishara didn't see any contradictions here, either.



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That elusive bid for unity

Despite the Arabs' political disease – factionalism – efforts are growing to create a broad, unified Arab list to run in the elections. **Nina Gilbert** reports

Attempts to form a broad united Arab list to run in the elections are expected to intensify after this weekend, when the Democratic Arab Party and Hadash elect their candidates at party conventions in Galilee.

Democratic Arab Party leader Abdul Wahab Darawshe has renewed his faction's alliance with the Islamic Movement, and the party is negotiating with other movements, including Azmi Bishara's Balad Party, on forming a united list aimed at capitalizing on the electoral power of the country's some 500,000 Arab voters.

"We can at least double our mandates from four to eight or 10 through a united list," said Darawshe, who has decided to resign from the party's list after 15 years in the Knesset, but will remain party leader.

Yet – on the grounds that it is a binational party – Hadash, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, (which in the outgoing Knesset included Bishara's Democratic National Assembly faction) has already made a firm decision not to be part of a united Arab list.

This is symptomatic of the Arab sector's inability to unite, according to Elie Rekhess, director of the Adenauer Program on Arab Politics at Tel Aviv University.

In a survey conducted a year ago, 600 people in the Arab sector were asked whether they supported the idea of a united Arab list. Eighty-two percent said they did – but only 18% said they believed such a party would be established, Rekhess noted.

In the 14th Knesset, the Arab parties, including Hadash-Balad and the DAP-Islamic Movement, won nine seats, while they had a combined five seats in 1992. By adding the Islamic Movement, Darawshe's faction doubled from two to four.

The increase for both parties was attributed in part to the new elections system, which allowed casting two ballots, one for a party and the other for prime minister.

According to Rekhess, if all Israeli Arabs voted for one party, it could obtain 14 mandates. He noted that around 80% of Arab voters cast ballots in the 1996 elections, a turnout similar to that of the Jewish sector.

DARAWSHE and Bishara are aiming for an Arab list to represent the entire Arab population. The aim is to take votes away from the "Zionist" parties and Hadash.

"We are the authentic list of the Arabs. We are the only party that can represent the true interests of the Arab population," Darawshe noted.

"Hadash is more of a 'square' party, with old ideas. We want to present something more liberal and democratic – not Marxist – for the voters."

Hadash MK Tamar Gozansky scoffed at this notion, noting that in the past Knesset the dominant force in the party was the Islamic element. Therefore the united list "can't be modern," she said.

According to Gozansky, Hadash is the progressive party, concerned with caring for both Jewish and Arab populations and advancing social-welfare causes – which makes it the only "leftist-socialist party."

"They claim they are 'more Arab' than us," she said, "but the Arab population has put its trust in us."

Gozansky noted this week that the DAP-Islamic list had supported the government in favor of the "joke of a three-month finance minister."

"That's national honor? There's a limit," she added.

Gozansky is altogether unimpressed by the calls for Arab unity, terming them merely a trial balloon.

Noted Hadash spokesman Dror Nissan: "In the beginning we were blamed for blocking unity; but now it looks like the Arab parties can't unite among themselves. We are not the problem."

As opposed to what Hadash sees as the "Moslem hegemony" in the DAP-Islamic Movement alliance, Hadash also represents Christians, Druse and Jews, he said.

Hadash has more modest aims in the elections, hoping to add a mandate or two. In particular, the party plans to run a higher-profile campaign in the Jewish sector, which contributed only some 5,000 votes in 1996.

"The aim is to take a mandate from Meretz," said Nissan.

The party is also competing for Arab votes that could go back to the Labor Party, which lost support in 1996 following Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Gozansky didn't believe Hadash would lose votes due to Balad's departure.

REKHESS questioned the extent to which Balad contributed to Hadash, noting that efforts to achieve unity should also be seen as an attempt by certain personalities to survive and find a new political home.

Besides Bishara and his Balad faction, Hashem Mahameed has also left Hadash and registered a new party, the National Unity Party. He is trying to find a place on a united Arab list, as is Labor Party renegade Rafik Haj-Yihye.

The Arab Alignment for Progress and Renewal Party, led by Ahmed Tibi, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser, plans to run for the Knesset this time. Before the 1996 elections, the party withdrew, fearing it would cause a waste of Arab votes.

Tibi himself is not sure whether he will run.

Other Arab parties are The New Arab, headed by Makram Khoury-Machool, a Jaffa businessman, and a Bedouin party, The Arab Beduin Party.

"The weakness in Arab politics blocking unity is factionalism and fragmentation. There are divisions are in all areas: ideology, social issues, family, clans, religion and ethnic origins," Rekhess said.

"There are no immediate solutions. You just can't get Christians and Islamic fundamentalists together."

The voter, Arab or Jewish, is not stupid, he noted, and won't go for frameworks he knows are doomed to fail.

Rekhess also noted that in 1996, even with the two-ballot system, one-third of the Arab vote went to Jewish parties; he predicts that Shas and Meretz will take a lot of Arab votes in the upcoming elections.

At the same time he warned that the Arab parties are in danger of losing Knesset seats if many of the parties that run don't cross the electoral threshold, which stands at an estimated 50,000 votes this year.

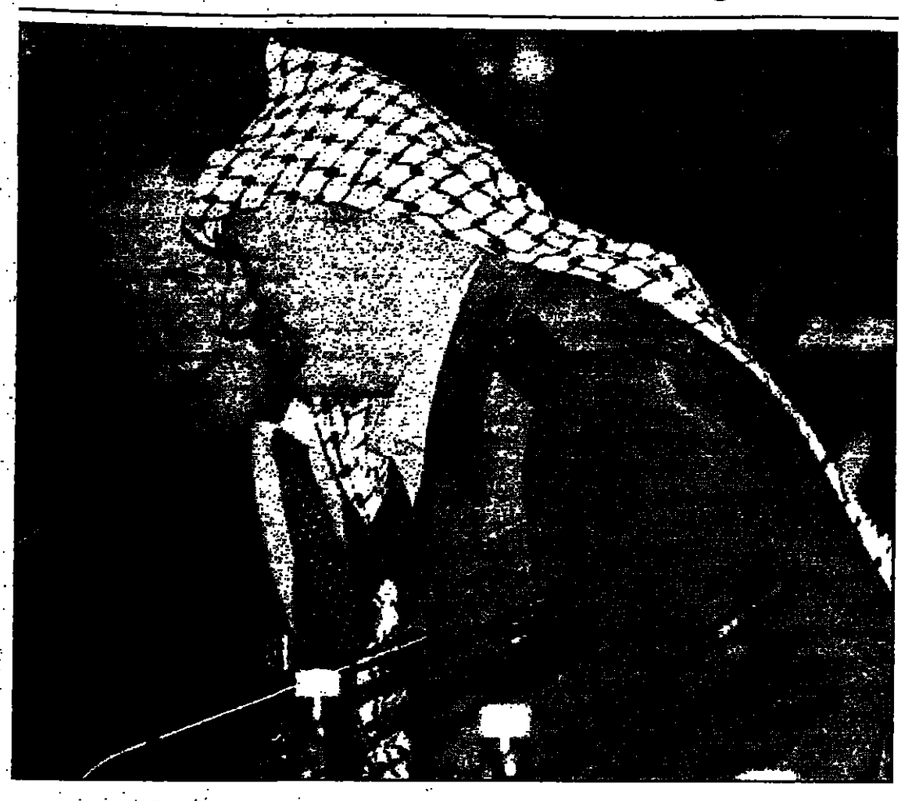
Despite the competition, Hadash and the DAP-Islamic Movement still see themselves as natural partners. The parties are to renew their surplus-vote agreement, and Gozansky and Darawshe were both quick to say that they do not "rule out one another."

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأعلى

A warmth that can be felt

The Palestinians are entering a new era in their relationship with the United States, Hillel Kuttler reports from Washington



Fast friends: Clinton and Arafat. Americans and Palestinians attribute their newly strengthened ties to the Wye agreement and the negotiating process that brought it about. (AP)

The American-Palestinian relationship has never been stronger. Palestinian officials are constant guests in Washington; Americans are frequent visitors to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian delegations came here in December and again last week for the first two meetings of a new bilateral committee established to discuss diplomatic developments and enhance trade and people-to-people ties. President Bill Clinton made a groundbreaking visit to Gaza in mid-December. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat popped into town early this month for what has become a fairly routine visit with Clinton and members of Congress and will return by April.

But while the Palestinians welcome their enhanced status, it is a double-edged sword. For one, the improved relations with Washington offer the administration greater opportunity to impress upon Arafat – the administration frowns on the term "leverage" – the importance of adhering to the latest commitments he undertook at Wye.

And Congress remains skeptical about the unprecedented upswing in the relationship, still antagonistic toward the PLO and not fully convinced that the Palestinians' inconsistent compliance record merits open rewards. Arafat has not yet gained a meeting with the Senate and House foreign affairs committees or their respective chairmen, Jesse Helms and Benjamin Gilman.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told congressional staff recently that he still had to run a US bureaucratic gauntlet to receive a US visa to travel here.

But on the whole, the evidence points to an increasingly better relationship. Even laws long on the books that regulate American relations with the PLO on the grounds that it is a terrorist organization are being targeted by the administration as nuisances that must be deposited on the legislative trash heap.

The Wye breakthrough last October was the most recent, and perhaps the strongest, catapult to improved bilateral cooperation. The first indicator of changed American-Palestinian ties of course, was Clinton's waiving of restrictions on Arafat's American travels to allow him to attend the signing of the Oslo Accord in September 1993.

ADMINISTRATION and Palestinian officials, Arab-American representatives and even the chief pro-Israel lobbying group see advantages in the Palestinians' new, improved status in Washington. All those interviewed emphasized that both Gaza and Jerusalem can reap benefits from friendship with the US without the other feeling threatened. All underscored, too, that the deep and historic Israeli-American ties could not possibly be compared to the Palestinians' baby-step emergence from pariah status.

For Arab-Americans and the PLO's local representative, the Palestinians' higher status evokes an "it's about time" sigh after decades of demonization of their cause.

"Could Arafat have envisioned in September that on a presidential trip to the Middle East, the only Arab leader the president would see is him? That's remarkable, particularly given our past relationship," said Aaron Miller, the State Department's deputy Middle East coordinator.

"I find that remarkable and a testament to how much our relationship has changed. That said, the Palestinians have to understand that they have responsibilities they have to deliver on, particularly on security."

Said James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute: "I think it is an important new fact in the entire process that the US has gone from having a bilateral relationship with Israel and a trilateral relationship with Israel and the Palestinians, to a bilateral relationship with Israel and a separate bilateral relationship with the Palestinians on issues that, while they may touch on the peace process, really are independent... and not based on negotiations but on improving ties and improving life for the Palestinians.

"That is a very significant development. There's a level of warmth and that's important – a level of respect."

HASSAN Abdel Rahman has seen the PLO's status here shift dramatically, albeit over many years, "from being out of the bounds of legitimacy to being legitimate."

In his first 11 years in Washington prior to Oslo – first as director of the organization's information office and then as its chief diplomat – he had never walked through the State Department's doors. Now, he explained, "members of the State Department come to my home, I go to theirs."

"Until Oslo, Palestinian-American relations did not exist, in essence," he said. "After Oslo, the relationship between the US and the PLO/PA grew, with the administration in particular, and with a great deal of understanding and support of public opinion and a big segment of the American Jewish community also."

US Justice Department officials (including FBI director Louis Freeh), CIA director George Tenet, secretaries Madeleine Albright (state), Donna Shalala (health and human services), Dan Glickman (agriculture) and William Daley (commerce) have all traveled to the West Bank and Gaza – and that's only in the last year. Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat is a frequent visitor – he returns next week – to give a push to Israeli-Palestinian and American-Palestinian trade.

And the PLO office here, Abdel Rahman said with a laugh, can scarcely handle the US visits of Palestinian officials.

"In fact, as I'm talking to you now," Abdel Rahman said Wednesday evening, "we have two delegations in town" – Agriculture Minister Hikmet Zaid, and members of an anti-incitement committee who sit on a panel with American and Israeli experts as called for under the Wye River memorandum.

That there is a need for a committee to deal with Palestinian incitement against Israel indicates the dichotomy of the PA's relations with both Israel and the US. The administration acknowledges that the PA has a good deal of baggage still to shed in Jerusalem and, by extension, in Washington.

But with each Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the PA is drawn further into the process of peacemaking, and has more invested, too, in its relationship with Washington. In other words, it has more to lose.

The Palestinians now have "a greater stake" in their relations with the US, "and that creates a certain amount of responsibility toward us, and it provides another access point where we can try to deepen" Israeli-Palestinian ties, a senior administration official explained.

"The Palestinians are drawn in, in a way they have not been before," he continued. "You want to move $400 million [in aid] through Congress? Then you, rightly so, have to address their concerns. That's why the Palestinians have been spending more time on the Hill.

"That's what's so interesting to me. If they want an expanded relationship, they'll have to recognize what their obligations are. The Palestinians want a relationship with the US. That is a piece with which Congress is very, very interested. The Palestinians have to understand there are congressional equities and interests in this. Everyone else – the Egyptians and the Israelis – has had to address – in other words, this part of our political system, and the Palestinians will have to, too."

THAT said, the US needs to continue being vigilant against its becoming a substitute address – in other words, that "the American point of the triangle is subordinated to the Israeli and Palestinian points, not the other way around," the official added.

AIPAC, which generally promotes economic aid to the peacemakers – Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians – in addition to its primary advocacy for Israel, appears unconcerned by the Palestinians' new stature here. That is, as long as the US makes inroads in two areas: moderating Palestinian expectations in final-status negotiations, and using its weight to assure Palestinian compliance with its security-related obligations toward Israel.

"We want to be sure those two things are addressed," said AIPAC's director Howard Kohr. "The administration clearly understands this. It's unclear whether the Palestinians understand – really understand – that.

"The US, because of this relationship they've built up over five, six years, can ensure the Palestinians fulfill their commitments. It puts the peace process on the kind of footing it needs to assure its success."

The organization also says it intends to monitor Arafat's threats to unilaterally declare independence in May – something that's already earned an all-important Washington acronym (UDI) – and to ensure that the Palestinians' turn toward to Washington is not a shift away from its obligation to deal directly with Israel.

AMERICANS and Palestinians alike attribute their newly strengthened ties to the Wye agreement and to the negotiating process that brought it about. There may not have been handholding in the woods of the rural Maryland retreat last October, but bonds were forged during the eight-day marathon, the fruits of which are evident today.

'The US, because of this relationship they've built up, can ensure the Palestinians fulfill their commitments'
– AIPAC director Howard Kohr

"I believe the Wye River agreement was a turning point. It was such an intensive contact, huge wakeing hours, that involved more than one or two individuals," said Abdel Rahman. "This interaction made people know each other better."

The senior US official concurred, but emphasized that the administration would prefer that agreements be reached bilaterally and without Washington playing so pivotal a role.

As well as monitoring both sides' compliance with their newly outlined commitments, the US also contributes to building the autonomous territories through the bilateral committee that oversees areas like educational exchanges and judicial and law-enforcement training.

In the meantime, though, Capitol Hill is pursuing its own agenda, with each house now circulating resolutions calling on the administration to dampen PA plans to declare a state when the interim period expires on May 4.

As the US-Palestinian ties evolve, what Israel ought not to forget, said the administration official, is that it alone among the Middle East peacemakers enjoys a relationship with Washington that evolved independently and not as a consequence of signing a peace agreement.

"In '99, the US-Israeli relationship is cumulatively stronger, institutionally, than at any point since it began.... Our relationship with Israel is quite extraordinary by any standards. It should not be viewed as a competition. It should be viewed as mutually enforcing relationships. Our relationship with the Palestinians will help them develop a greater stake in making the negotiations succeed."

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

It's been a poignant year for Industry and Trade Minister and Yisrael Ba'aliya chairman **Natan Sharansky**, who, while in Moscow this week, was finally able to see the documents of the trumped-up charges against him. Last year was the former Prisoner of Zion and dissident leader's 50th birthday. This year, he celebrated the bar mitzva of his aliya exactly a week prior to his party's elections for candidates for the 15th Knesset.

When Sharansky arrived here in February 1986, it became obvious as soon as he stepped onto Israeli soil that he would be a leader here. With the taste of freedom fresh in his mouth, Sharansky grabbed **Yitzhak Shamir** by one hand and **Shimon Peres** by the other and led them across the tarmac.

Slightly over a decade later, Shamir and Peres were no longer members of the government. But Sharansky had become a forceful and influential cabinet member.



Natan Sharansky: emotional year (Israel Sun)

NEPAL Honorary Consul **Adina Gottesman** used Nepal's 49th Democracy Day as a launch-pad for the Israel Nepal Friendship Association, founded by businessman **Alex Schneider**. Welcoming guests to the Democracy Day reception at her elegant Herzliya Pituah home, which also serves as the Royal Nepalese Consulate General, Gottesman observed that the exotic is no more.

"We live in a time in which there are no more unknown lands to be explored," she said, adding that the last of the unknown lands was Nepal. Nestling in the Himalayas, Nepal has remained steadfast in its ties with Israel, never severing relations – not even during a period in which it was common for Asian and East European countries to break ties.

Assisting Gottesman to receive the guests was Brigadier-General **K.B. Fudong**, who heads Nepal's 650-member UNIFIL forces. Other Nepalese officers present were Lt. Cols. **A.J. Thapa, R.B. Gurung, K. Budhathoki** and **K.C. Kumar**, and Major **Birit Bikram Shah**.

Amongst the guests were dean of the diplomatic corps **Rosalinda de Perio-Santos**, who, though exhausted from moving into a new residence, betrayed no outward sign; South African Ambassador **Frank Land**, who had just returned from extended home leave and will be leaving Israel permanently at the end of next month; **Aura Herzog**, president of the Council for a Beautiful Israel; and well-known socialites **Dana As, Paulette Ben-Haim, Doris** and **Bob Small, Stella** and **Yossi Hadass** and **Susan** and **Dan Propper**.



Pnina Herzog: won't brook bad manners (Sarit Uziely)

SABRA though she is, **Pnina Herzog**, president of the International Council of Women, will not brook bad manners – as was evident at the cocktail reception she hosted in honor of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

When guests rudely kept talking during her welcoming address, Herzog got visibly annoyed, even calling one person to task by name.

Voicing her fear that current trends toward divisiveness and polarization will deal a catastrophic blow to the Jewish people, resulting in the formation of separate Jewish identities, Herzog noted that very often, when people speak of tolerance, they mean others' tolerance, not their own.

Incoming president of presidents **Ronald Lauder**, taking his cue from Herzog, urged: "Let us look for those things that unite us, not those which divide us."

ONE of the guests at Pnina Herzog's reception reminded Lauder that they had first met at the Israel launch of Pleasures, one of the perfumes created by his mother, cosmetics queen **Estee Lauder**. Sniffing almost imperceptibly, Lauder commented: "You're not wearing it now." Then, to demonstrate his objectivity, he conceded that the rival fragrance was quite good.

Others present included **Isi Leibler**, who serves with Lauder on the executive of the World Jewish Congress, former state comptroller **Miriam Ben-Porat**, former Supreme Court justices **Moshe Landau** and **Shoshana Netanyahu**, and former finance and justice minister **Moshe Nissim** and his wife, **Ruth**. Also there was Transport Minister **Shaul Yahalom**, Knesset Speaker **Dan Tichon** and his wife, **Ludmilla**, and MKs **Naomi Blumenthal** and **Yuri Stern**.

Shmuel Siso, Israeli consul in New York, presented Tichon with a flag created for Israel's 50th anniversary, incorporating the emblems of each of the states in the US.

Speaking in English (to prove he could), Siso said, "I can assure you that the [50th anniversary] celebrations in the US were much more colorful and much more significant than those in Israel."

To which someone in the crowd muttered: "It wouldn't take much."

IT'S not that uncommon for married couples to hold opposing political views, but few are as public about it as Tsomet leader **Rafael Eitan** and his decidedly left-wing wife **Ofra Meirson**, who sits on the Jerusalem City Council.

Meirson, who has linked up with the newly formed Women's Party, Yitzug Shaveh, is still contemplating whether to put her name down on their list of Knesset candidates. If both she and her husband get seats, it will be the first elected spousal duo in the Knesset. It will be even more interesting when they vote against each other.

Meanwhile, the women's party has a major campaign event scheduled for this morning at the Accadia Hotel, Herzliya.

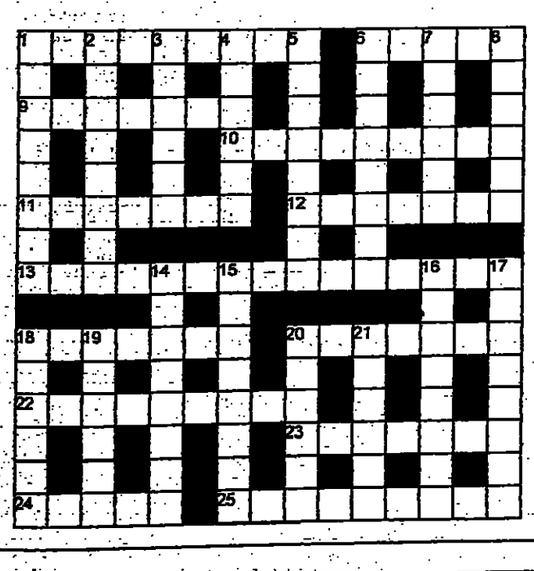
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Means of measuring contents of dirty sack? (9)
6 Sounds not pleasant to face (5)
9 Firm's to dismiss Russian horseman (7)
10 Skilful in dealing with info and debts (9)
11 Ruining by demolition work—becoming hardened to it (7)
12 Climbing-frame found in garden (7)
13 Winning combination in court (4,3,3,5)
18 Yet we're possibly found in the churchyard (3-4)
20 One murmuring about salesman in Eastern Region (7)
22 Becoming less severe when yielding to compassion (9)
23 Resisted work, puzzled (7)
24 Come second in the hill race? (3,2)
25 A trashy line (9)

DOWN

1 Youth leader Bill had night out sailing (8)
2 Is rude strangely and hesitantly with the matter remaining (8)
3 Rascal, one with seafood (6)
4 Clue not left for blackening (6)
5 Ruler converts tons of capital (8)
6 Ray spends short time on side of the ship (8)
7 Some forms of fish? (6)
8 Councillor one's repeatedly followed during emergency (6)
14 Begin suddenly to jump out of bed (6,2)
15 Peg, one found in home that's the smallest (8)
16 Wasn't one working with the tool? (5-3)
17 Larry, he'd removed the armorial bearings (8)
18 Ball Kerry spun was empty (6)
19 Flag on the carpet (6)
20 Rex and I go to the old city during the austerity (6)
21 Handles the fruit (6)



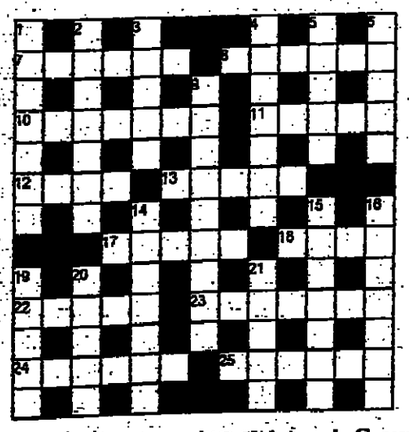
SOLUTIONS

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Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Know, 5 Nonsense, 9 Aimed, 10 Allowed, 11 Elk, 13 Nightmare, 14 Varlet, 16 Asters, 18 Ladies man, 20 Tic, 22 Moisten, 23 Weald, 25 Salaried, 26 Past. DOWN: 1 Knave, 2 Olm, 4 Orange, 5 Salutes, 6 Newsagent, 7 Endless, 8 Odin, 12 Kerb drill, 14 Volumes, 15 Elector, 17 Amende, 19 Newt, 21 Cadet, 24 Aga.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

7 Green bower (6)
8 Controller (6)
10 Light cavalrymen (7)
11 Wrong (5)
12 Waterbird (4)
13 Conductor's wand (5)
17 Small fish (5)
18 Ring of light (4)
22 Feeble-minded person (5)
23 Between ball & opponents' goal (7)
24 Heavenly twin (6)
25 Other heavenly twin (6)

DOWN

1 Wrong but prevalent notion (7)
2 Desert (7)
3 Governor (5)
4 Model of perfection (7)
5 Mark (5)
6 Appointment to meet (5)
9 Moving stairs (9)
14 View (7)
15 Flavouring pod (7)
16 Medieval weapon (4-3)
19 Slap (5)
20 Pie-covering (5)
21 Astir (5)

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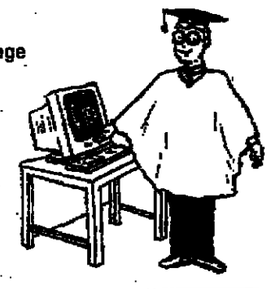
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Sharon Area

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Sharon Area

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Sharon Area

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Tel Aviv

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SITUATIONS VACANT
Dan Region

OFFICE STAFF

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SITUATIONS VACANT
Sharon Area

HOUSEHOLD HELP

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Sharon Area

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, February 26
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 670-6660; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0106; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6461; Bloch, 32 Bloch, 522-6425.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hypermetto, 8 Haroshet, Ra'anana, 748-3537.
Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 835-2484.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312; Superharm Hanevi'im, 2 Khoury, 867-5125.
Krayot area: Pentagon, 4 Hagdud Ha'ivri, Kiryat Motzkin, 871-1490.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, February 27
Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3896; (evening) Superpharm, Malha mall, 679-3260; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0106; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.**Tel Aviv:** Briut, 28 King George, 528-3731; Sanitas, 83 Ibn Gvirol, 524-8003.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Margalit mall, Jabotinsky, Hod Hasharon, 740-8681; (evening) Silvia, 182 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 765-8642.
Netanya: Hadarim mall, 2 Hakadar, Old Industrial Zone, 862-8436.
Haifa: Superharm Hanevi'im, 2 Khoury, 867-5125.
Krayot area: Super Pharm, Hakiryon, 44 Hapalmah, Kiryat Bialik, 877-9320.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, February 26
Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, February 27
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ENT); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

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Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod*	8551333	Kfar Sava*	9902222
Ashkelon	6551332	Nahariya*	9912333
Beersheba*	6274767	Netanya*	9604444
Bet Shemesh	6523133	P. Tikva*	9311111
Dan Region*	5793333	Rehovot*	9451333
Eilat*	6332444	Rishon*	9642333
Haifa*	8512233	Safed	6920333
Jerusalem*	6523133	Tel Aviv*	5480111
Karmiel*	9885444	Tiberias*	6792444

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Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-8205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-950-5720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506.

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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TORA PORTION: *Tetzaveh*

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PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Fri., Sat., Sun., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel. 02-582-8964.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, #4 Narkis St., Sunday, 10:45 a.m., Tel. 02-6255942.

JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

MORESHET YISRAEL – Conservative 4 Agron. Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Friday, February 26 – Minha 5:20 p.m. Shabbat, February 27 – Sheharit 8:30 a.m., Minha 4:30 p.m. Daily Minyan 7:00 a.m.

WHERE TO GO

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WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a,9,23,26,28. For info, call 882819.

WHERE TO GO

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

WHERE TO GO

JERUSALEM

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ART GUIDE

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ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

Museums
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE

TEL AVIV

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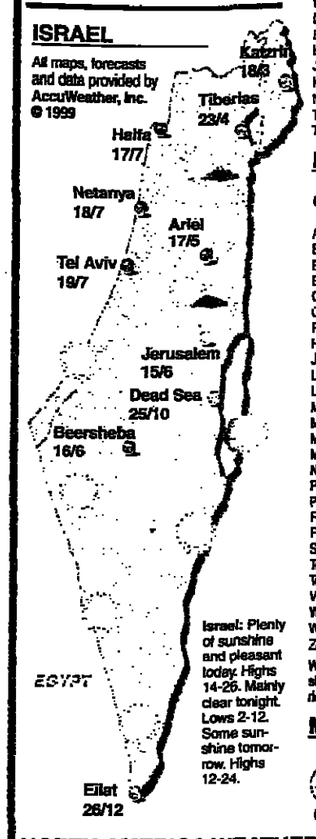
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ISRAEL



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Israel: Plenty of sunshine and pleasant today. Highs 14-26. Mainly clear tonight. Lows 2-12. Some sunshine tomorrow. Highs 12-24.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F
Ariel	17/62	5/41/s	15/59	3/37/pc
Beersheba	18/61	6/43/s	14/57	4/39/pc
Dead Sea	25/77	10/50/s	23/73	8/46/s
Eilat	29/78	12/53/s	24/75	10/50/s
Haifa	17/62	7/44/s	15/59	7/44/pc
Jerusalem	15/59	6/43/s	13/55	4/39/pc
Katzrin	18/64	3/37/s	16/61	3/37/pc
Netanya	18/64	7/44/s	16/61	7/44/pc
Tel Aviv	19/66	7/44/s	17/62	7/44/pc
Tiberias	23/73	4/39/s	21/70	4/39/pc

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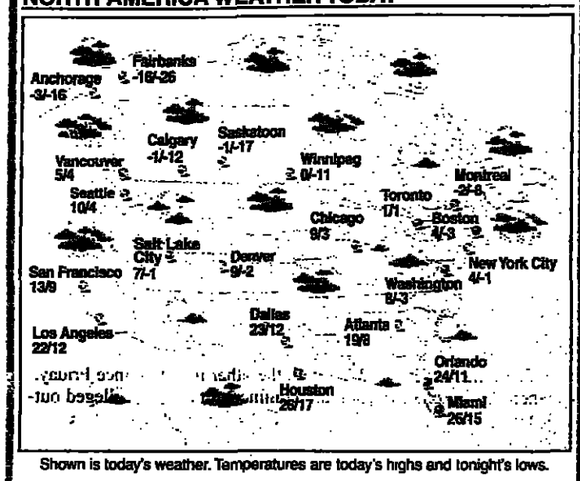
City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	11/52	7/44/sh	7/44	0/32/r
Beijing	12/53	-9/16/s	7/44	-1/31/s
Berlin	7/44	6/43/r	9/48	3/37/r
Brussels	10/50	8/46/r	8/46	1/34/r
Cairo	19/66	6/43/s	19/66	7/44/s
Chicago	9/48	3/37/pc	7/44	0/32/sn
Frankfurt	5/41	3/37/sn	7/44	1/34/r
Hong Kong	24/75	19/66/s	24/75	18/64/pc
Johannesburg	30/86	18/64/s	33/91	17/62/s
London	9/48	4/39/c	9/48	2/35/pc
Los Angeles	22/71	12/53/s	23/73	11/52/pc
Madrid	12/53	8/46/c	10/50	5/41/r
Mexico City	24/75	9/48/pc	24/75	9/48/s
Montreal	-2/29	-8/18/pc	6/43	0/32/s
Moscow	-2/29	-6/22/sn	-2/29	-8/18/c
New York	4/39	-1/31/c	8/46	2/35/pc
Paris	9/48	3/37/c	8/46	1/34/sh
Prague	6/43	4/39/sh	8/46	2/35/c
Rio de Janeiro	33/91	24/75/t	28/82	23/73/pc
Rome	13/55	4/39/s	17/62	7/44/s
Sydney	21/70	18/64/r	22/71	17/62/sh
Tokyo	13/55	12/53/pc	19/66	2/35/sh
Toronto	1/34	1/34/pc	10/50	4/39/pc
Vienna	6/43	4/39/c	13/55	6/43/c
Warsaw	1/34	0/32/c	8/43	2/35/sh
Washington	8/46	-3/27/pc	12/53	3/37/pc
Zurich	7/44	3/37/c	10/50	3/37/c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

MOON PHASES

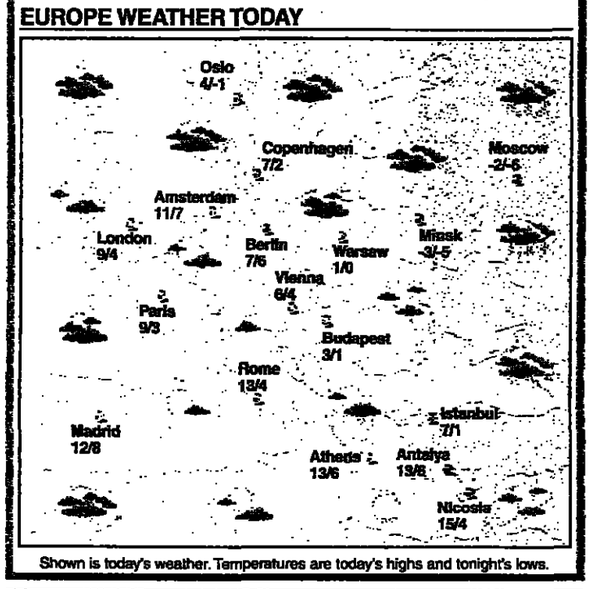
Full	Last	New	First
Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24

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Bringing some Purim joy and comfort

This week I have been allocating money to answer the requests of social workers who approached us on learning about our Purim Mishloah Manot campaign. We have been asked to help provide toys for the children of deprived families, to supply clothes for infants, children and the elderly, heaters for senior citizens who live in freezing apartments, and we've had some special appeals for help in providing dental care.

The response to our Mishloah Manot fund-raising drive has so far brought in NIS 5,254, and we are hoping that as Purim approaches, more is on its way. The quickest way to get it to us is to call (02) 537-6528 and give us your VISA number and the amount you wish to contribute. Checks take a little longer.

Once again I want to draw to our readers' attention to the fact that we get numerous requests for help for dental treatment, a subject not covered adequately through the health funds. If any of you, our friends and donors, specifically want your donation to be allocated to helping old people who can't afford the high costs of false teeth or even simple treatment, please indicate it when you send it to The Forsake Me Not Fund.

Please rush your checks now or phone your VISA donation to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem; (02) 537-6528. Donors living in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, c/o The Jerusalem Post, 401 North Wabash, Suite 521, Chicago, IL. 60611. Please designate in you letter to which fund you wish to donate and write your message (names especially) very clearly.

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By JUDE PEFFLEMAN

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 1,000 Kehillat Talpiot Hahadasha
NIS 400 In memory of our parents – Eda and Walter Millard, Tel Aviv.
NIS 300 In memory of my sisters Olga Fiedler and Renee Jane Levy – Lilly Zohary, J'lem.
NIS 250 On the yahrzeit of my beloved parents, both of which fall in Adar – C.R. Haifa.
NIS 180 Greenfeld, J'lem.
NIS 100 In memory of all my loved ones – Rosa Shaw, Herzliya.
NIS 54 E.S. Ashkelon.
$100 D. Dubitzky, Caesarea.
$25 Minnie Cooper, LA.

New	Donations
Progress	Total
NIS 2,284	NIS 25,322
$125	$17,748

TOY FUND

NIS 1,000 Kehillat Talpiot Hahadasha
NIS 250 Anon., J'lem.

New	Donations
Progress	Totals
NIS 1,250	NIS 20,884
	$7,118

WELCOME HOME FUND

(includes Winter Shoes Mitzva)
NIS 3,000 S.and P. Fenster, Petah Tikva.
NIS 400 in honor of our 10 grandchildren – Eda and Walter Millard, Tel Aviv.
NIS 300 In memory of my sisters Olga Fiedler and Renee Jane Levy – Lilly Zohary, J'lem.
NIS 250 Sherman Ruth, Ramat Gan (for shoes).
$25 Minnie Cooper, LA.
DM 250 Anon., Wiesbaden.
DM 250 Anon., Wiesbaden (Shoes).

New	Donation
Progress	Totals
NIS 5,090	NIS 16,737
$25	$4,035

(other currencies converted to shekels)

PURIM CAMPAIGN

NIS 400 In honor of our grandchildren – Eda and Walter Millard, Tel Aviv.
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NIS 150 Anon. P. Goldfiam, J'lem.
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NIS 70 Kandler.
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Progress	Total
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VEHICLES
Tel Aviv

PASSPORT

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VEHICLES
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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأعلى

Toshack faced with imposing order at Real Madrid

MADRID (AP) – Boasting that the job doesn't scare him, John Toshack returned to Real Madrid yesterday, becoming their fourth coach in a year and charged with restoring order at the star-studded club and reviving its hopes of winning the domestic league and a record eighth European Champions cup.

"The league is not lost, seven points is no distance at this stage," Toshack told the Spanish sports daily *Marca*. "I'm not frightened." But not everybody was as confident.

"The task ahead of him is frankly difficult," said Dutch soccer legend Johan Cruyff. "If John doesn't sort them (the players) out, he'll be the next victim."

Toshack, who coached the side for a season and a half in 1989-90, was due to arrive in Madrid from Turkey late yesterday.

He is Real Madrid's fourth coach in less than a year following on German Jupp Heynckes, Spaniard Jose Antonio Camacho and most recently Dutchman Guus Hiddink. He is the club's sixth coach in three years.

Hiddink, who coached the Dutch national side to No. 4 in last year's World Cup, was criticized for failing to lay down the law among players whose egos reportedly ballooned after winning a record seventh European Cup last season.

His predicament and the almost farcical turnover in Madrid coaches was best depicted in a cartoon drawing in the *El Mundo* daily that showed Madrid players kicking about the head of Hiddink with club chairman Lorenzo Sanz in the background alongside Toshack saying: "Boys, if you could stop training for a moment I'll introduce the new coach." On announcing Hiddink's removal, Sanz told reporters he had a choice of fir[illegible] coach or half the team.

Toshack, 48, was fished back from Turkey's Besiktas after negotiations to persuade Italian Fabio Capello to return to the Spanish powerhouse collapsed earlier this week.

"I know about Capello, but I don't consider myself a second choice," Toshack told *Marca*.

His arrival comes as Real lie sixth in the 20-team Spanish League, seven points behind leaders Barcelona, and share with lowly Salamanca the title of conceding most goals, 36.



Tiger Woods watches his shot from the first tee during his match with Nick Faldo on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Woods, Duval avoid upsets

CARLSBAD, Ca. (Reuters) – Tiger Woods and David Duval, the two men with the greatest claim to being the best golf player in the world, won their opening-round matches at the Match Play Championships on Wednesday.

Few other results were as predictable, as several of the world's elite golfers were eliminated from the competition that pays the winner $1 million. The losers received $25,000 consolation prizes.

Mark O'Meara, the reigning Masters and British Open champion ranked third in the world behind Woods and Duval, lost to 62nd-ranked Michael Bradley 4 and 2.

"Michael made no mistakes. Any one of these guys in this field can beat any other guy, and that's just the way it is," said O'Meara afterward.

Just 18 of the 32 matches on Wednesday were won by the player with the higher ranking.

The fourth-ranked player, Davis Love, fell to 61st-ranked Steve Pate 1 up.

Ernie Els, the seventh-ranked player and the winner three days earlier at Riviera, lost to 58th-ranked Paul Azinger on the 18th hole, 1 up.

The biggest surprise of the day was the poor showing by the Europeans, winners of the last two Ryder Cups.

England's Lee Westwood, ranked fifth, fell to Argentine veteran Eduardo Romero 3 and 2.

With Paraguay's Carlos Franco defeating Mark Calcavecchia 2 and 1, South America will have two players advancing to the second round while Britain will have none.

It was not unexpected when Nick Faldo, the last man in the field, lost to Woods 4 and 3, because Faldo has been in a two-year slump, but better things were expected of his fellow Britons Westwood, Darren Clarke, Ian Woosnam and Colin Montgomerie, who was defeated 5 and 3 by Craig Stadler.

The first-round results set up some interesting matches for the second round. Woods meets Bob Tway, who had the most decisive victory on Wednesday, taking Tom Watson 6 and 4.

"I'm probably more anxious about tomorrow's match than I was today, but it's just nice to be able to get one match underneath your belt and get fired up about the next one," said Woods.

Japan's Shigeki Maruyama, the hero of December's Presidents Cup matches, extended his record to 6-0 over the last two months with his 3 and 2 win over Steve Stricker and will met Justin Leonard yesterday.

Duval – who beat Australian Stephen Leaney 2 and 1 – plays Bill Glasson, Phil Mickelson will meet Lee Janzen, and as a reward for taking down Lee Westwood, Romero will face Greg Norman.

The group of 32 players was to be reduced to 16 after yesterday's second round of matches and then two elimination rounds will be played today.

The four semifinalists will play tomorrow until there are just two for Sunday's final, a 36-hole match that will be worth $1 million to the winner and $500,000 to the runner-up.

Bacher enters all-white team issue

AUCKLAND (Reuters) – South African cricket's chief administrator [illegible] Bacher stepped into the all-white team controversy yesterday.

Bacher's involvement followed the statement by United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) president Ray White on Wednesday criticizing the all-white composition of the teams fielded against New Zealand in two one-day internationals last week.

White described the situation as a "misunderstanding" but said that it had been resolved and that he did not expect it to happen again.

Team captain Hansie Cronje and manager Goolam Rajah both denied any conversation with White before the statement was released and only claimed to have heard about it through the media.

Bacher said from Johannesburg: "I have spoken to Hansie and he gave an assurance that the intention was never to flout Board policy or ignore the UCB vision for the future of SA cricket.

They were merely experimenting with combinations for the World Cup.

"Hansie assured me that Board policy will be adhered to in future. He remains committed to captaining a successful South African team that will illicit the support of all South Africans."

Bacher said Cronje, along with vice-captain Shaun Pollock and coach Bob Woolmer, were not aware of the details of the Board's policy.

"After the Centurion Park Test (against West Indies) I addressed the entire team on the broader issues of SA cricket but, in fairness to both Hansie and Bob, they have never officially been given the document drawn up after the (UCB executive) meeting in December (when the policy was adopted)," Bacher said.

"Peter Pollock (selection convenor) and I must accept the blame for that."

Bacher also said that selection policy had now been altered from the original document which stated: "The national team must be a team of color, wherever possible." The words "wherever possible" had now been removed, Bacher said.

"The Board met last Saturday and this was first item on the agenda. It caused a very lively debate and the result was the statement that Ray White released in his capacity as president," Bacher said.

Both Bacher and White said they had attempted to reach the team before the statement was released but Rajah, Woolmer and Cronje all said they had not been contacted.

Coyotes edge Capitals; Panthers stop Flyers



WASHINGTON (AP) – Rick Tocchet and Keith Tkachuk scored first-period goals Wednesday night, and Nikolai Khabibulin made 19 saves as the Phoenix Coyotes snapped a five-game losing streak with a 2-1 victory over the Washington Capitals.

The loss ended Washington's five-game home-winning streak and cost last year's Stanley Cup finalists a chance to move ahead of Montreal into 10th place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Phoenix, in the middle of a season-long, seven-game road trip, won the game with hustle and defense. Khabibulin didn't have to work hard most of the evening because his defensemen throttled the Capitals deep in their zone. Brian Bellows scored Washington's goal in the second period.

Panthers 5, Flyers 3

Mark Parrish jammed the puck underneath John Vanbiesbrouck for a power-play goal at 11:32 of the third period as the Florida Panthers celebrated the return of Pavel Bure by beating the visiting Philadelphia Flyers.

Bure failed to score in his first game back after an eight-game absence, but the Panthers continued their offensive explosion that began with Saturday's 7-1 blowout of Phoenix.

Kings 3, Red Wings 2, OT

Luc Robitaille's power-play goal in overtime lifted the Los Angeles Kings over host Detroit, snapping the Red Wings' unbeaten streak at seven games.

Third-period goals 29 seconds apart by Donald Audette and Rob Blake tied the game 2-2. Brendan Shanahan and Sergei Fedorov scored for the Red Wings, who went into the game on a 6-0-1 streak.

Maple Leafs 2, Hurricanes 2

In Toronto, Alyn McCauley returned to the lineup following a 22-game absence and scored the tying goal with 5:05 remaining to give the Toronto Maple Leafs a tie with the Carolina Hurricanes.

McCauley picked up a loose puck in the high slot and one-timed a blast past Arturs Irbe. It was his first game back since he suffered a sprained knee on Dec. 30.

Blackhawks 3, Blues 1

Doug Gilmour scored twice and goalie Mark Fitzpatrick gained his first win since Nov. 17 as the visiting Chicago Blackhawks made the coaching debut of Lorne Molleken a success by beating the St. Louis Blues.

Molleken took over the team Monday on an interim basis after the Blackhawks fired Dirk Graham. He achieved something in his first game that the Blackhawks had done only six times previously – a win on the road. The Blackhawks are just 7-21-4 away from the United Center.

Predators 2, Stars 1

Sergei Krivokrasov's goal with 28.6 seconds to play lifted the Nashville Predators over host Dallas.

Krivokrasov skated up the right side, faked defenseman Derian Hatcher to the ice and beat Stars goaltender Roman Turek on a backhander for his 19th goal.

Sabres 2, Flames 2

Defenseman Jason Woolley assisted on the first goal and scored late in the third as visitor Buffalo Sabres tied the Calgary Flames.

The tie extended Calgary's unbeaten streak to seven games (5-0-2), the team's longest such streak since January 1996.

Mighty Ducks 2, Oilers 1

Paul Kariya scored the game winner and added an assist as visiting Anaheim beat Edmonton.

Kariya broke a 1-1 tie with 5:04 left in the third period when he took a drop pass from Steve Rucchin just inside the Edmonton blue line and fired a slap shot over goalie Steve Passmore's glove.

Canucks 1, Sharks 1

The San Jose Sharks matched a season high with 40 shots but only Alex Korolyuk's got through for a tie with visiting Vancouver.

The Canucks had just 13 shots and didn't have any in the third period and overtime. Dave Scatchard scored their goal in the first period.

It was the second straight tie for Vancouver since snapping a three-game losing streak during which the Canucks were outscored 17-2. San Jose was playing at home for the first time since ending its league-record 10-game, 18-day road trip.

Phoenix 2 0 0–2
Washington 0 1 0–1
First Period–1, Phoenix, Tocchet 22 (Numminen, Roenick), 10:06 (pp). 2, Phoenix, Tkachuk 22 (Stapleton, Carney), 13:01. Second Period–3, Washington, Sellows 11 (Swajkowsky), 12:35. Third Period–None. Shots on goal–Phoenix 8-4-4–16. Washington 3-11-6–20. Power-play Opportunities–Phoenix 1 of 1; Washington 0 of 1. Goalies–Phoenix, Khabibulin 24-14-5 (20 shots-19 saves). Washington, Kolzig 21-23-2 (16-14).

Carolina 1 1 0 0–2
Toronto 0 1 1 0–2
First Period–1, Carolina, Primeau 25 (Sheppard), 13:54. Second Period–2, Carolina, Kapanen 17 (Primeau, Sheppard), 12:58 (pp). 3, Toronto, Sundin 21 (Karpovtsev, Thomas), 14:48. Third Period–4, Toronto, McCauley 8 (McAllister, Johnson), 14:55. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Carolina, 13-12-6-1–31. Toronto 12-8-10-1–31. Power-play Opportunities–Carolina 1 of 3; Toronto 0 of 4. Goalies–Carolina, Irbe 21-12-8 (31 shots-29 saves). Toronto, Joseph 25-17-5 (31-29).

Philadelphia 0 2 1–3
Florida 0 3 2–5

WINNING CARDS
in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing
K Q 8 8
J K 8 10
Q J A 9

First Period–None. Second Period–1, Philadelphia, Bureau 4 (Zubrus), 4:19. 2, Philadelphia Lindros 35 (LeClair, Jones), 5:01. 3, Florida, Boyle 1 (Hicks, Worrell), 6:12. 4, Florida, Mellanby 13 (Spacek, Mullin), 6:57. 5, Florida, Kvasha 10 (Boyle, Burke), 10:37 (pp). Third Period–6, Philadelphia, Desjardins 13 (Brind'Amour, Babych), 5:28 (pp). 7, Florida, Parrish 16 (Kvasha, Mellanby), 11:32 (pp). 8, Florida, Kozlov 11, 16:14 (en). Shots on goal–Philadelphia 10-7-10–27. Florida 8-10-5–24. Power-play Opportunities–Philadelphia 1 of 7; Florida 2 of 5. Goalies–Philadelphia, Vanbiesbrouck 20-11-10 (23 shots-19 saves). Florida, Burke 17-13-13 (27-24).

Los Angeles 0 0 2 1–3
Detroit 1 1 0 0–2
First Period–1, Detroit, Shanahan 22 (Yzerman, Lidstrom), 14:15. Second Period–2, Detroit, Fedorov 17 (Brown, Holmstrom), 2:31. Third Period–3, Los Angeles, Audette 11 (Laperriere), 7:06. 4, Los Angeles, Blake 5 (Pronger, Stumpel), 7:35. Overtime–5, Los Angeles, Robitaille 31 (Audette, Stumpel), 1:57 (pp). Shots on goal–Los Angeles 15-8-14-3–40. Detroit 11-7-7-2–25. Power-play Opportunities–Los Angeles 1 of 2; Detroit 0 of 2. Goalies–Los Angeles, Fiset 10-11-1 (26 shots-24 saves). Detroit, Osgood 25-20-3 (40-37).

Chicago 2 0 1–3
St. Louis 0 1 0–1
First Period–1, Chicago, Gilmour 15 (Muir, Emerson), 6:34. 2, Chicago, Gilmour 16 (Chelios), 9:34. Second Period–3, St. Louis, MacInnis 17 (Tsygurov, Damitra), 7:36. Third Period–4, Chicago, Zhamnov 12 (Olczyk, Zmolek), 17:50. Shots on goal–Chicago 7-5-4–16. St. Louis 10-9-7–26. Power-play Opportunities–Chicago 0 of 2; St. Louis 0 of 3. Goalies–Chicago, Fitzpatrick 4-6-4 (25 shots-25 saves). St. Louis, McLennan 12-14-4 (16-13).

Nashville 0 1 1–2
Dallas 0 1 0–1
First Period–None. Second Period–1, Dallas, Huff 28 (Modano, Lehtinen), 10:51. 2, Nashville, Brunette 8 (Krivokrasov, Ronning), 16:14 (pp). Third Period–3, Nashville, Krivokrasov 19 (Bordeleau), 18:21. Shots on goal–Nashville 5-12-6–23. Dallas 4-7-7–18. Power-play Opportunities–Nashville 1 of 3; Dallas 0 of 2. Goalies–Nashville, Vokoun 9-13-3 (18 shots-17 saves). Dallas, Turek 10-9-2 (25-23).

Buffalo 1 0 1 0–2
Calgary 1 0 1 0–2
First Period–1, Buffalo, Brown 18 (Grosek, Woolley), 3:32. 2, Calgary, Shantz 11 (Bassen, Fleury), 3:43. Second Period–None. Third Period–3, Calgary, Iginla 22 (Wiemer), 10:05. 4, Buffalo, Woolley 5 (Ward, Peca), 16:47. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Buffalo 10-7-9-2–28. Calgary 13-8-13-1–35. Power-play Opportunities–Buffalo 0 of 4; Calgary 0 of 4. Goalies–Buffalo, Rolosen 2-4-2 (33 shots-33 saves). Calgary, Brathwaite 7-4-7 (28-26).

Anaheim 0 0 2–2
Edmonton 0 0 1–1
First Period–None. Second Period–None. Third Period–1, Anaheim, Salanne 32 (Kariya), 11:12. 2, Edmonton, Murray 12 (Falloon, Smyth), 12:56. 3, Anaheim, Kariya 26 (Rucchin), 14:56. Shots on goal–Anaheim 5-9-10–24. Edmonton 16-10-7–33. Power-play Opportunities–Anaheim 0 of 2; Edmonton 0 of 5. Goalies–Anaheim, Roussel 3-4-2 (33 shots-32 saves). Edmonton, Passmore 0-1-0 (24-22).

Vancouver 1 0 0 0–1
San Jose 0 1 0 0–1
First Period–1, Vancouver, Bertuzzi 9 (Aucoin, Scatchard), 11:52. Second Period–2, San Jose, Korolyuk 6 (Sturm, Murphy), 16:34 (pp). Third Period–None. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Vancouver 7-9-5-0–13. San Jose 16-8-14-1–40. Power-play Opportunities–Vancouver 0 of 3; San Jose 1 of 8. Goalies–Vancouver, Snow 15-24-6 (40 shots-39 saves). San Jose, Vernon 15-17-9 (13-12).

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	30	15	13	73	181	127
New Jersey	32	20	7	71	174	149
Pittsburgh	31	18	7	69	177	151
N.Y. Rangers	23	28	7	53	160	165
N.Y. Islanders	18	34	7	43	139	178
Northeast Division						
Ottawa	32	17	8	72	166	123
Toronto	32	21	5	69	186	174
Buffalo	27	19	12	66	158	126
Boston	24	24	9	57	147	134
Montreal	23	28	8	54	139	154
Southeast Division						
Carolina	27	22	11	65	158	151
Florida	22	21	15	59	147	150
Washington	24	29	5	53	146	152
Tampa Bay	12	41	5	29	119	213

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	31	24	5	67	177	150
St. Louis	23	24	10	56	158	148
Nashville	21	32	6	48	140	190
Chicago	17	35	8	42	134	191
Northwest Division						
Colorado	29	21	8	66	158	143
Edmonton	22	28	8	52	156	151
Calgary	21	28	10	52	153	170
Vancouver	18	32	9	45	147	187
Pacific Division						
Dallas	36	11	9	81	164	112
Phoenix	30	18	10	70	148	129
Anaheim	25	25	9	59	157	148
San Jose	20	25	14	54	133	137
Los Angeles	22	32	5	49	138	160

Wednesday's games: Phoenix 2, Washington 1; Carolina 2, Toronto 2, tie; Florida 5, Philadelphia 3; Los Angeles 3, Detroit 2, OT; Chicago 3, St. Louis 1; Nashville 2, Dallas 1; Buffalo 2, Calgary 2, tie; Anaheim 2, Edmonton 1; Vancouver 1, San Jose 1, tie.

SPORTS
in brief

IBA punishes Benoit, Daniel after brawl

The Israel Basketball Association's (IBA) disciplinary committee yesterday banned and fined Maccabi Tel Aviv's David Benoit and Maccabi Rishon's Motti Daniel after the brawl during the Orange League game between the two teams at Yad Eliahu last week.

Benoit was banned for five games, three of them suspended for a year and fined NIS12,000 after he was seen to lunge at Daniel and attack him with his fists. Benoit claimed that Daniel had taunted him and called him a "Nigger" during the game.

Daniel – against whom the charges were not proven, and who passed a lie-detector test – was suspended for one game and fined NIS1,000. *Post Sports Staff*

Jaywardene leads Sri Lanka reply

COLOMBO (Reuters) – Mahela Jayawardene hit a half century as Sri Lanka reached 121 for two in reply to India's imposing 518 for seven declared on the second day of their Asian Test championship match yesterday.

Jayawardene's 59 not out was made from 74 balls with the aid of nine fours and an on-driven six off spinner Harbajan Singh.

India captain Mohammad Azharuddin and Saurav Ganguly both made half centuries to boost India's first innings total by 94 between lunch and tea.

India, resuming on 351 for three, lost Sachin Tendulkar to the first ball of the day. He edged an outswinger from Chaminda Vaas to wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana, having made 53

McMillan apologizes for 'coolie creeper' remark

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) – Former South African Test all-rounder Brian McMillan made a public apology yesterday for racially offensive "sledging" during a match.

McMillan had been severely reprimanded by a United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) disciplinary committee for advising a Western Province team mate to deliver a "coolie creeper" to a non-white KwaZulu Natal batsman in a first-class game earlier this month.

The phrase is South African cricketing jargon for a ball that shoots along the ground after pitching. "Coolie" is an apartheid era term for a laborer of Indian descent.

McMillan was initially unrepentant. He told reporters on Wednesday that he would not apologize and that the issue was "crap."

In a prepared statement read out in front of television cameras after the first day of a four-day match at Newlands yesterday he said: "I would like to reiterate that the term "coolie creeper" in my cricketing terminology means a ball keeping low.

"However, I now believe that such a term may be interpreted to be offensive in the South African environment.

"If I have offended anybody by using this term, I wish to apologize." McMillan declined to be questioned on his change of heart.

Tyson to stay in solitary 20 more days

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) – Mike Tyson was ordered Wednesday to remain in solitary confinement for 20 more days after throwing a television in a recreation room at the Montgomery County jail.

Tyson has been in administrative segregation since last Friday and won't return to the regular jail population until mid-March.

Tyson also lost phone and visiting privileges and will not be allowed to participate in group activities at the facility. He will be in an isolated environment for 23 hours a day.

Tyson faced accusations of disorderly conduct, destroying property and assaulting a correctional officer who was allegedly struck with shards of plastic from the television.

Tyson has not had contact with the other inmates since Friday, when he was placed in solitary confinement after his alleged outburst. Before then, he had begun a one-year sentence in a cell among the jail's regular population of inmates who are awaiting trial or serving sentences of 18 months or less.

Owen denies link to Lazio

LIVERPOOL (Reuters)- England striker Michael Owen denied yesterday he is ready to move to Lazio in a £25 million transfer despite intense press speculation in Italy.

The Liverpool teenager also squashed rumors he had signed a deal to give the Italian league leaders first option if he decides to leave Liverpool in the future.

"I don't know where the story came from. I've certainly never heard anything about it," he told the *Liverpool Echo*.

"Obviously people are going to think there is something in it because they will have heard stories about Lazio having first refusal on me but that's not true either."

Dundee face demotion over stadium delay

GLASGOW (Reuters) – The Scottish Premier League said yesterday that Dundee will be expelled if they do not complete improvements to their Dens Park Stadium by the start of next season.

The financially-troubled club, which this week firmly closed the door on a possible merger with city neighbors, Dundee United, is struggling to find money to turn Dens Park into the 10,000-all-seated stadium required by SPL rules.

Work to build two new stands has been halted because Dundee does not have the money. An SPL spokesman said Dundee would be demoted if the work is not finished by the July 31 deadline.

Reggae Boyz humiliated in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (Reuters) – Costa Rica, playing their third game under Colombian coach Francisco Maturana, handed Jamaica's Reggae Boyz a demoralising 9-0 defeat in a friendly on Wednesday.

Both teams were below strength, Costa Rica missing players such as England-based striker Paulo Wanchope while Jamaica were without coach Rene Simoes.

Even so, the defeat is a major blow to the prestige of the Reggae Boyz, who last year made history by becoming the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to qualify for the World Cup.

Gerald Drummond led the rout with a hat-trick while Rolando Fonseca and Mauricio Solis scored two each and Walter Centeno and Jervis Drummond helped themselves to the other goals.

McGwire greets media; Gant apologizes to La Russa

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) – Mark McGwire will have to talk about last year's record-setting season for another month. Ron Gant wants to put his feud with former manager Tony La Russa behind him right away.

"I'm mentally prepared to talk about last year up until the last day of spring training," McGwire said Wednesday in his first news conference of spring training.

"Once the season starts, talking about 70 is gone. I think it's foolish to think I'm going to carry this over and talk about last year."

As about 100 reporters watched and three sports networks broadcast the spring training news conference live, McGwire laughed off predictions that he would shatter his record of 70 homers.

La Russa predicted 75 for McGwire in January and new teammate Carlos Baerga forecasts 80.

"Geez, I'd definitely retire if I did that," McGwire said.

"There's no more reason to play after that." But McGwire said he won't be disappointed if he falls far short of 70.

"I'm sure that no matter what I do this year, if I don't hit 70, someone will say I had an off year," McGwire said.

La Russa and Gant have been ripping each other since the Cardinals traded the left fielder to Philadelphia three months ago. Gant criticized La Russa's lineups, and La Russa fired back about the slugger's lack of production.

On Tuesday, Gant named several players who didn't like La Russa and were mistreated by him. All the players were black, leaving the comments to be interpreted as an accusation of racism.

"I apologize to the fans, to my fans, to the families. This shouldn't have happened," Gant said. "We both are adults, and we have to put it behind us." La Russa has said he was trying to find Gant's phone number so the two could talk, but La Russa said Wednesday that he still didn't have the number.

Asked if he would talk with La Russa if the manager called, Gant said: "Probably so. I'm that type of person. As far as I'm concerned, it's behind me. I hope it's behind him." Meanwhile, Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood was hospitalized for precautionary testing after missing his third straight day of spring training workouts because of a lingering illness.

"The reason for putting him in is to get some blood cultures and see if we can pin down exactly what the cause is and just be careful and stay ahead of it," Cubs team physician Dr. John Marquardt said of last year's NL Rookie of the Year.

Tiger roars



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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Rodman upstaged on first day with Lakers

INGLEWOOD, Ca. (AP) – On his first day with the Los Angeles Lakers, Dennis Rodman was actually upstaged.

It took the firing of coach Del Harris to push the flamboyant, controversial Rodman into the background.

"Already problems," Rodman joked during a Forum news conference. "Since the coaching job is vacant, maybe I should be coach. Wouldn't that be something? I'd come out there with a pimp-daddy hat. That would be groovy." Rodman, who finally signed a contract with the Lakers on Tuesday, showed up for a voluntary practice Wednesday at the Forum, but met only a few of his teammates. Harris, in what may have been his last official act as coach, gave the regulars the day off.

Shaquille O'Neal, who had pushed for the Lakers to sign Rodman, was at the Forum, but remained in street clothes.

Rodman was critical of O'Neal and other Lakers earlier in the week, and Rodman was asked what the Lakers center said to him.

"There's no hard feelings. Guys know my dedication. He just said, 'Welcome to the team,'" Rodman said.

Then Rodman again began listing the Lakers' shortcomings.

"You have to know what your role is, and I think I lot of guys don't know that, especially this team. ... These guys don't know the game of basketball," Rodman said.

"When you've been in the NBA two or three years, you shouldn't whine and complain what somebody else is doing or not doing, not when you're making $12-13 million a year.

There's no cohesion, no love between the players.

"They really don't have any connection. They get the ball down low, then nobody is trying to do anything more. They've got to learn. If they don't, we'll probably get knocked out in the first round of the playoffs."

In announcing the firing of Harris, Lakers executive Jerry West said assistant coach Kurt Rambis or fellow assistant Larry Drew will be selected as coach in the near future.



DISCARDED – Del Harris. (Reuters)

State Cup soccer to the fore

By ORI LEWIS

Soccer action this weekend is dominated by the State Cup as National League teams join the competition's eighth round.

The only National League fixture taking place is today's clash at Kfar Sava between the home team and Maccabi Haifa.

The match promises to be a tense affair, with Kfar Sava, who are fifth from bottom, struggling to keep out of the relegation zone, and Haifa, for whom a win is vital if they are to stay in touch with the leaders. Haifa will hope Romen Harazi is fit.

The international striker twisted his knee while playing for Israel against Latvia on Wednesday when he scored Israel's second goal in the 2-0 win. His strong showing marks a welcome return to form after some disappointing performances since he joined Haifa from Turkey's Bursaspor last month.

In the cup, the National League teams have been kept apart from the rest, giving some of the minnows a chance to show their worth against the big boys.

Such is the case with Maccabi Bnei Tira and Hapoel Bnei Lakhish of the fourth division, who will respectively host Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Beit She'an. The two sides' grounds were deemed unfit to host the fixtures, so Tira will play at nearby Kfar Sava and Bnei Lakhish's match has been moved from Moshiv Nehora to Kiryat Gat.

This weekend's National League and State Cup fixtures (lower division teams indicated by Roman numerals):

Today – National League: Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Maccabi Haifa, Kfar Sava 15:00.

State Cup: Maccabi Netanya (II) v. Zafririm Holon, Maccabi Jaffa v. Hapoel Beersheba (II), Hapoel Ashkelon (II) v. Hapoel Jerusalem, Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Maccabi Kafr Kana (II).

Tomorrow – State Cup: Maccabi Bnei Tira (IV) v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Bnei Yehuda v. Shimshon Tel Aviv (III), Hapoel Taibe (II) v. Maccabi Herzliya, Betar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Kfar Shalem (III), Lazarus Holon (III) v. Hapoel Haifa, Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Betar Beersheba (II), Hapoel Bnei Lakhish (IV) v. Hapoel Beit She'an, Hapoel Ra'anana (III) v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Ironi Rishon Lezion v. Hakoah Ramat Gan (II), Hapoel Migdal

Sixers down Kings 94-81

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – In a matchup of the 1996-97 Rookie of the Year and the league's newest point guard sensation, Jason Williams had the move of the night. But Allen Iverson did everything else better as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Sacramento Kings 94-81 Wednesday.

Iverson, who despite the pre-game hype was rarely matched man-to-man against Williams, scored 36 points and handed off 10 assists to thoroughly outplay Sacramento's dazzling rookie.

The Sixers held the Kings, the league's highest-scoring team, 19 points below their season average. Philadelphia has held 14 consecutive opponents below 100 points.

Chris Webber had 21 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento, while Williams had 10 points with seven assists and four turnovers.

Celtics 111, Magic 79

Paul Pierce scored 19 points and host Boston held Penny Hardaway scoreless, ending the Magic's five-game winning streak.

The Celtics led from the start and took control in the third quarter by outscoring the Magic 33-19.

Dana Barros added 17 points, including four 3-point shots in the fourth quarter.

The Magic backcourt of Nick Anderson and Hardaway was held to six points. The two combined for 54 points when Orlando beat Boston 107-90 on Feb. 8.

Pacers 104, Raptors 84

In Indianapolis, Rik Smits scored 22 points as the Pacers extended their unbeaten streak against Canada's two NBA teams to 19.

Smits played only 27 minutes as Indiana defeated Toronto for the 13th consecutive time, giving the Pacers a 19-0 mark since the Raptors and Vancouver Grizzlies entered the league.

The Pacers, playing the first of three games in three nights, built a 22-point lead in the first quarter, led by as many as 26 in the second and were ahead 52-31 at halftime.

Pistons 89, Cavaliers 73

Joe Dumars scored 21 of his 26 points in the second half. Host Detroit has won three of four after a five-game losing streak. The Cavaliers have lost two in a row after a five-game winning streak.

Dumars now has 42 points in two games since returning to the Detroit lineup after a hamstring injury. Bison Dele and Lindsey Hunter added 13 each for the Pistons, while Shawn Kemp led Cleveland with 24 points and 11 rebounds.

Dele played 28 minutes despite a case of the flu that made him leave courtside for parts of each half.

Heat 91, Hornets 83

Alonzo Mourning led a strong inside game by visiting Miami with 20 points and 17 rebounds as the Heat extended their winning streak to seven games.

Mark Strickland, P.J. Brown and Tim Hardaway added 13 points apiece for Miami, which got 16 of its 33 field goals on either dunks or layups. Leading the way was Strickland, who had six dunks.

The Heat got a subpar outing from Hardaway, who missed 15 of 19 field-goal attempts.

Trail Blazers 94, Nets 85

Walt Williams scored nine of his 22 points in the quarter, carrying visiting Portland to its fifth straight win. The loss was also the fifth straight and ninth in 11 games for the Nets, who came into the season expecting to be one of the up-and-coming teams.

They played like one for a half, building a 14-point lead, and they even managed to take a three-point lead into the final period. But the Trail Blazers used a 26-8 spurt to take control of a game in which the Nets seemed to run out of gas playing for the fourth time in five nights.

Spurs 99, Sonics 81

David Robinson and Tim Duncan combined for 47 points and 30 rebounds as host San Antonio routed Seattle.

The Spurs continued their up-and-down season, winning for just the second time in their last five games. But both wins have been convincing. San Antonio ripped Detroit 85-64 Sunday.

San Antonio's twin towers were dominant as the 7-foot-1 Robinson scored a season-high 29 points and added 17 rebounds. The 6-11 Duncan complemented him with 18 points and 13 rebounds and they helped put Seattle in significant foul trouble.

Seattle's main inside players, Olden Polynice and Vin Baker, each drew his fifth foul early in the fourth quarter. They combined for two minutes in the last period.

Seattle (7-4) lost its fourth game in the last five after a 6-0 start.

Nuggets 97, Jazz 87

In Denver, Nick Van Exel scored 21 of his 23 points in the second half as the Nuggets posted their second straight victory, beating the NBA's best team this season.

Antonio McDyess had 24 points for Denver before fouling out with 4:35 left, and Van Exel promptly scored the Nuggets' next six points, giving his team a 91-85 lead with 2:48 remaining.

Karl Malone had 22 points, including 12-for-18 from the free throw line, for the Jazz, who came into the game 9-1.



PROVING A POINT – Boston Celtics rookie Paul Pierce hits a slam dunk against the Orlando Magic in first-half NBA action in Boston on Wednesday. (Reuters)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	9	3	.750	–
Miami	8	3	.727	½
New York	7	3	.700	1
Philadelphia	6	5	.545	2½
Boston	4	5	.444	3½
Washington	4	5	.444	3½
New Jersey	2	9	.182	6½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	8	3	.727	–
Milwaukee	6	3	.667	1
Atlanta	6	5	.545	2
Detroit	6	6	.500	2½
Cleveland	5	5	.500	2½
Toronto	3	7	.300	4½
Chicago	2	9	.182	6
Charlotte	1	8	.111	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	9	2	.818	–
Minnesota	8	2	.800	½
Houston	7	4	.636	2
San Antonio	6	6	.500	3½
Vancouver	4	6	.400	4½
Denver	3	8	.273	6
Dallas	3	9	.250	6½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	7	2	.778	–
Seattle	7	4	.636	1
Phoenix	6	4	.600	1½
LA Lakers	6	6	.500	2½
Golden State	5	6	.455	3
Sacramento	5	6	.455	3
LA Clippers	0	9	.000	7

Wednesday's games: Boston 111, Orlando 79; Indiana 104, Toronto 84; Philadelphia 94, Sacramento 81; Detroit 89, Cleveland 73; Miami 91, Charlotte 83; Portland 94, New Jersey 85; San Antonio 99, Seattle 81; Denver 97, Utah 87.

Kafelnikov one match from world top spot

LONDON (Reuters) – Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov is just one match from becoming world No. 1 after beating Byron Black in the London Indoor Tournament yesterday.

The top seed's 6-3 6-2 victory over the Zimbabwean earned him a quarter-final clash with Sweden's Thomas Johansson, and victory in that match will see Kafelnikov topple Pete Sampras from the top spot.

Sampras has spent a total of 260 weeks at No. 1 and is gunning for Ivan Lendl's record of 270, but Kafelnikov is in irrepressible form and is determined to become Russia's first player to head the world rankings.

Third seed Greg Rusedski beat former Australian Open champion Petr Korda for a place in the quarters against Thomas Enqvist.

A single break in the first set saw the British world No. 10 take the opening set 6-3. Nothing could separate the two in the second and Rusedski ended up taking it 7-4 in a tie-break.

A break to love in the second game of Kafelnikov's second-round match against Black was all he needed as he went on to claim the opening set.

Scorching groundstrokes, especially from the backhand wing, kept the 31st-ranked Black scurrying around the court and he was always under pressure to hold his serve in the second set.

Taking the returns almost on the half-volley at times, Kafelnikov exploited the angles, leaving Black – double-fisted on both sides – lunging for everything.

Kafelnikov broke in the very first game of the second set and again in the fifth game for 4-1 before comfortably serving out after 63 minutes of play in the specially-erected tent.

"It's wonderful," he said afterwards. "I will become only the 15th player to be No. 1 since rankings began (1973) so it is a big honor and more than I could ever dream of."

Fifth seed Karol Kucera of Slovakia coasted through his second-round match against France's Guillaume Raoux 6-2 6-0. He plays Dutch fourth seed Richard Krajicek in the quarter-finals.

Earlier, eighth-seeded Johansson booked his quarter-final spot with a 6-0 6-7 6-2 victory over Davide Sanguinetti.

Ferguson fires wages warning

GLASGOW (Reuters) – Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson yesterday hit out at the wages spiral he believes is in danger of crippling the game.

Ferguson, whose club were recently ranked as the richest in the world, warned that the hike in players' salaries sparked by the Bosman ruling is hurting fans as well as clubs and could lead to a whole generation of supporters turning away from football.

"What you have now is a free-for-all so far as wages are concerned," Ferguson said in an interview with the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper. "It is a serious concern now whether clubs can afford to pay the kind of money which is being talked about.

"If you are to believe some of the sums being bandied about then the game could die if clubs attempt to meet the demands which are being made.

"We all know of cases where clubs are struggling financially and a great many of the problems – if not almost all of them – stem from the fact that players are asking for salaries which are too high and which will cripple the game permanently unless there is some common sense brought to bear on the whole matter."

The Bosman ruling gave players the right to leave clubs on a free transfer at the end of their contracts.

That led to the recent high-profile case of Liverpool winger Steve McManaman, who has signed a five-year deal with Real Madrid that will earn him a reported £14 million in wages and signing-on fees.

Ferguson called on players' unions to "preach reality" to their members involved with contract negotiations.

"Honestly, I believe the very future of football is on the line unless we get back to wage negotiations in which players and clubs are comfortable and can talk clearly to each other instead of being hung up on the often nonsensical wage deals which are being asked for nowadays."

Ferguson, the longest-serving manager in England's Premier League, said if the freedom of contract given to players by the Bosman ruling was not used more wisely he had "real fears" for the game's future – from the fan's point of view as well as that of the clubs.

"It has to come to an end some time but what will be left of football as we know it if these spiralling wages carry on for much longer.

"The money to pay the players has to come from somewhere and, inevitably, that means it will come from the pockets of the supporters.

"I don't believe we should be continually asking the fans to pay higher prices to see games. If you go to London you can find yourself being asked for £30 for the cheapest seats.

"That takes the game out of reach of the ordinary fan and it makes it impossible to take the family, so you are losing out on the next generation of supporters. That would be a serious problem."

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